

SINCLAIR

JULY 1992 £1.95



# DIY TOOLKIT: WINDOWS FOR QDOS

WORLD

## MEETING IN MÜNSTER

### LAST NEW QL'S READER OFFER!

### DIRECT TYPING FROM ARCHIVE





## PERFECTION PERFECTION PLUS

Perfection is the finest word processor available for any computer. We have received dozens of letters from happy users saying just this... and all of these letters were unsolicited. "Superb" was used most often.

Perfection manages to achieve all the sophistication of the most complex PC word processors while still using a user interface as friendly as Quill's. Perfection has a dual system of user control: menus while you are familiarising yourself with the program, and direct commands for the time when you feel ready for more adventurous things. The two systems can be used interchangeably and even simultaneously. Even more exciting – both systems are iterative. In case you don't understand what this means, let us give you an example: suppose you wished to move a block of text using the menus. You would choose Block Move (yes, it is right in the first menu) and the screen would then tell you to move your cursor to the start of the block. On most word processors you would have to navigate manually to this position: indeed, on many of them (Quill included) only a subset of the normal navigation commands would be available. On Perfection, not only can you use all the manual navigation commands (viz all 28 permutations of CTRL, ALT, SHIFT and the arrow keys) but in addition you can use direct commands like GoTo Line or Page or any of eight markers. Even more amazingly, you can use Search (either as a direct command or from the menus) even though you are already 'within' a menu option.

Perfection has about 200 commands, but the layout of menus and the choice of keys for the direct commands makes it very easy to master. Though a 100+ page manual is provided (with all the important bits right at the front), you should only need to consult it for specialised operations like macros.

Even if speed is not particularly important to you, we assure you that Perfection's lightning performance will enable you to use the word processor in sensible ways that you would not have dreamed possible before. For example, scrolling 100 pages or so is accomplished so quickly using the normal navigation commands that you do not need to bother using a menu option to do the move. Spellchecking, assuming you have Perfection Plus, is accomplished virtually instantly: to spellcheck this whole ad (all the pages) would take under 1.5 seconds... Searching (you can switch case sensitivity, as well as equivalences between tabs, soft spaces and hard spaces) is at the rate of about 100 A4 pages per second.

Moving from one word processor to another is usually very traumatic. With Perfection, this will not be the case. Not only can Perfection read in Quill .doc and .exp files directly (you do not even need to tell it they are Quill files) but it can make direct and immediate use of your existing Quill printer driver. File re-export is also possible.

Perfection is truly WYSIWYG: this means that bold appears bold on screen, italics appear as italics, underlined as underlined, and so on. Of course, your printer may have functions we do not know about (upside down?). To deal with these, Perfection provides a number of on-screen shaded strips: these can be attached to any printer function you wish, and will not upset justification as a translate would. Of course, translates are provided as well.

A variety of statistics on the document being processed are available: some of them are on view all the time, the rest can be toggled to instantly. Not only is there a word count, but also page, line, character and special character (like Superscript Off) counts. There are also a dozen status indicators, letting you know whether you are in Insert or Overwrite mode, whether a block is defined, whether interactive spellchecking is enabled etc. Current line (from top as well as within page) and column positions and character codes are also available.

A terrific feature of Perfection is the dual screen mode. You can view one part of the document while editing another. The sizes of the two windows are themselves adjustable, both in real-time or via the configurator. We should devote more space to the configurator: however, it must suffice to say that everything that could be dynamically set within Perfection may also be preset with the configurator. The configurator can, for example, allow you to select any of 256 colours for any of a dozen parameters (like paper colour, border colour, status window ink and paper colour etc).

Perfection is fully multitasking without need for any external accessory: however, if you already use QPAC or Taskmaster or similar and are happy, you may go on doing so.

There is absolutely no way that we can prepare you for the quality 'feel' of Perfection. We have a great deal of experience using PC word processors costing many hundreds of pounds: with absolutely no exception, Perfection is far easier to use and master.

So if you thought Perfection was unattainable, you have a very pleasant surprise coming to you!

## LIGHTNING SPECIAL EDITION LIGHTNING

These programs accelerate QL operation by up to 10x (2x – 4x is typical) without having any adverse effect whatsoever on compatibility or anything else. Lightning SE is typically 40% faster than the standard version. This acceleration is totally independent of, and in addition to, any speed-up obtained by hardware means. So if you have Gold Card, your need for Lightning SE is just the same as if you had only an unexpanded QL – Lightning SE will accelerate both by the same ratio.

The Lightning programs achieve their acceleration by automatically paging out sections of the QL's operating system and replacing these with optimal, concise code written by us.

Lightning installation is a completely automatic and one-off: no knowledge of computing or programming is required. Once installed, Lightning can be completely forgotten about – you will soon get used to the superb speed! Knob twiddlers are catered for too.

Lightning technology is not built in to any of our other programs. Perfection users (as well as users of all other QL software) should therefore use Lightning all the time.

In summary: if you do not have Lightning, you are wrong. Buy this one FIRST OF ALL!

## PROFESSIONAL PUBLISHER

The Professional In Professional Publisher refers to the quality of output from that program, and is not meant to suggest any complexity of operation. Few programs are as easy to use as this one: > 99% of users will be able to do with-

a manual! Professional Publisher is by far the best DTP program for the QL. It is fully compatible with Perfection, Editor, Quill, Eye-Q & the ASCII editors. It allows you to both create and import both text and graphics. Text can be 'poured' into boxes of any shape, size and number, automatically maintaining justification and hyphenation settings. So flowing text around graphics is a doddle.

Professional Publisher is supplied with a generous selection of fonts of various sizes, as well as clip art.

Justification is by pixel, not by character. This gives a much smoother effect.

It is pointless for us to try to list all of Professional Publisher's features – we would end up filling half the magazine! We will concentrate on just a few 'points': Professional Publisher is extremely precise, performing all its computations accurate to a small fraction of a millimetre. All its features can be preset by you using its configurator, ruling out the need for repetitive key strokes.

The program is extraordinarily versatile while remaining intuitive in its user interface. Buy it!

## PROFESSIONAL PUBLISHER TOOLBOXES

Toolbox I is an excellent collection of high definition fonts, clip art and utility programs for Professional Publisher. While the fonts supplied with Professional Publisher are excellent, many users will feel the need for a wider range of typefaces and styles.

Toolbox II starts where Toolbox I leaves off, providing an even better – and different – font collection.

The two Toolboxes complement each other and are available together at a special price.

## FONT ENLARGER GRAFIX

Font Enlarger does exactly what you would expect it to from its name. While Professional Publisher is also capable of enlarging fonts, it does them 'on the fly' and consequently is not able to remove the jaggedness caused by magnification. Font Enlarger is much cleverer, and enhances detail without any step effect.

While the built-in printer driver for Professional Publisher is excellent with 9-pin printers, it is not optimal with 24-pin or laser printers. Grafix is.



## EYE-Q ULTRAPRINT

Eye-Q is the finest graphics program for the QL. While there may be other graphics programs with a few more features, no other program comes anywhere close to Eye-Q in sheer enjoyability. Eye-Q develops a pleasurable tactile relationship with you, and makes you feel like an artist (even if you aren't). Eye-Q graphics can be read in by Professional Publisher, and the latter's pages can be exported to Eye-Q (using Toolbox I). Everything in Eye-Q is menu-driven and there is context-sensitive help.

While Eye-Q has its own printer driver, Ultraprint allows you 22 distinct styles/sizes of printer output. The reasoning is that the scale of gradation suitable for pictures is probably unsuitable for text or line drawings.

## PC CONQUEROR SOLUTION

PC Conqueror makes your QL into a PC-compatible machine, automatically. It does this by software means only, so there are no screws to undo or wires to fiddle with. Your QL stays a QL too.

Why, might you ask, should you wish to make your QL into a PC-compatible? The reason is simple: you may wish to run the same programs at home as you do at work. Alternatively, you may wish to tap into the vast storehouse of PC software of every type and description you could imagine.

Using PC Conqueror could not be easier. Just boot up your machine with the PC Conqueror disk in floppy 1 and within 10 seconds your QL will be transformed into a PC that is just waiting to be switched on. From this point on you will do exactly the same as you would if you were running a 'real' PC – this means putting a DOS disk (any version) into one of your drives and pressing a key. If you do not already have legal access to a copy of DOS, we can provide you with one at reasonable cost (see our price list).

PC Conqueror runs as fast as it is possible for a PC emulator to run: we have used all our skills to make it work quickly. Of course, you can make the emulation must faster by using Gold Card and Lightning SE. With this combination, you should get speed noticeably better than that of a PC XT...

PC Conqueror allows you to fine-tune the operating environment of the PC in order to improve performance. If you get a hard disk or other high capacity floppy system, you can utilise part or all of it as a PC hard disk.

PC Conqueror occupies under 80K and leaves 667K free for DOS when run on a Trump Card. This is more than you will get on a 'real' PC.

Solution does what Conqueror does but is about half as fast and is not quite as compatible.

## SPELLCHECKER MEGA DICTIONARY

Spellchecker is what makes Perfection into Perfection Plus. We have made it available as a separate item for two reasons: (a) to allow Perfection owners to add it later (b) to allow users of other word processors to benefit from the very best in spellchecking technology.

Spellchecker is supplied complete with three dictionaries of differing sizes as well as a system for building, reviewing and maintaining user dictionaries.

Spellchecker's ultimate accessory is the Mega Dictionary, which gives the user a vocabulary of over 350,000 words!

## 3D PRECISION CAD SYSTEM

This program allows you to manipulate shapes and figures in 2D and 3D at a speed that will leave you breathless. Irrespective of whether your interest is in CAD, in animation or in just having fun, this program should not be missed. You can output to plotters directly from it, or alternatively create graphics screens to be manipulated and output by Eye-Q, Ultraprint or Professional Publisher.

## SUPER SPRITE GENERATOR

SSG moves things about the screen very fast and very smoothly, without flicker. Sprites can have up to 16 frames.





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**COMING SOON!**

We have an updated version of Cowo Electronics' QL and Thor front end QTop; several new games reviews; a publisher working on suggestions for would-be software authors when sending their wares for assessment; more meetings reports, and an interesting new Mouse from EEC Ltd.





# TROUBLE

**Y**ou will probably by now have read the front page of *QL World*, and realised that the magazine is under new management. The company uses Apple Macintoshes for their magazine layout work, and can load files from standard PC programs into the Macs. Had the QL been developed further by Sinclair, it might by now have been quite like a Mac, with a more-powerful 68000-series cpu, hard disk drives, better graphics display, a WIMP user interface, and a much more comprehensive operating system. Thanks to various suppliers, steps have been taken to update the QL in some areas; we have a faster processor, in the form of the Gold Card, and a WIMP interface, *QPac*. Improvements to the Qdos operating system have been piecemeal, and leave a lot to be desired by the average user. The graphics haven't really been tackled yet. The story is far from ended, though. There is no shortage of QL material, circulation of *QL World* and membership of Quanta both appear to have stabilised and could be increased somewhat, so there is good reason to think our computer will continue to be well-supported as it comes up to its tenth year.

## New products

Jochen Merz was demonstrating the QL emulator running on an Atari said to have a 33 MHz 68020 cpu at the Bristol Quanta meeting. Not surprisingly, it was reported to be quite fast! Miracle Systems are working on both higher- and lower-specification versions of the Gold Card. Now we know just how usable QL software is with the 16 MHz 68000 Gold Card, the thought of what will be possible with the 68020 or 68040 cpu is truly exciting. Digital Precision has a speed demonstration which should register with most people, and it makes use of the *Perfection* wordprocessor running on a standard Gold Card system. A single file containing about 40% of the bible (roughly 1.6 MB!) is loaded into *Perfection*, and Copy and Spell-check operations run; the times taken are in the low seconds, not the minutes (or even hours) that some people might expect. Beta-test versions of *Perfection* are doing the rounds again, and they contain some significant improvements, so be prepared for a new release shortly.

**Bryan Davies has been trying some of the new upgrades from several QL suppliers this spring.**

## Faster emulation

Not new, but due out in updated form any time now, is Digital Precision's *Conqueror* PC emulator. Amongst the new features are support for expansion memory, which can be well-utilised by the DR-DOS 6.0 (or 6.1) operating system that is supplied with the Special Edition version. The PC's conventional memory limit of 640 KB was raised to 667 KB by the original version of *Conqueror*, and has now been jacked-up further to a reported 736 KB. Having been struggling to get an extra few bytes' working space on my own PC recently, an extra couple of hundred kilobytes seems a dream, but *Conqueror* provides it. Naturally, use of the Gold Card increases speed of operation considerably, but it would be losing much of the GC's advantage if its extra memory could not be used also, and *Conqueror* can now do just that, making a fully-usable PC out of the QL.

Another significant improvement is that the program is tuned for operation with the Gold Card and extra-high density disk drives. DR-DOS 6.0 is up-to-the-minute PC software, and merits some description here. The basic 640 KB which is the nominal PC and DOS 'ration' has been exceeded in several ways for some years now, but many PCs are still restricted to this amount; DOS 6.0 enables several chunks of the operational software to be loaded into areas of memory away from the basic 640 KB. The extra memory provided by the Gold Card can also be used as extended memory, and this type of memory is vital to the operation of that masterpiece of seductive programming, Windows. It also enables ramdisks to be created. One major feature of DR-DOS 6.0 is its disk cache routine, which can also make use of the extra memory, to give a considerable speed-up of disk read/write

operations. The SuperStor feature uses on-the-fly file-compression to increase the available hard disk space by a factor of two. If you haven't got a hard disk, but have an ED drive, you can create a DOS area of about 6.4 MB on it. That is near hard disk capacity.

## Try a rom

The version 2.28 rom in the Gold Card is reported to sort out various disk-associated problems. As the reports are all second-hand, please don't take them as being a guaranteed cure for any disk problems you may have, but it is worth contacting Miracle Systems, if you have trouble you think is related to the Gold Card, to ask their advice on whether or not the 2.28 rom is needed in your GC. The reports suggest this rom deals with file/directory errors on ED disks, incompatibility with one-third-height Mitsubishi 3.5in drives, failure to boot of *QL Invoicer* (one drive being ignored), and unspecified trouble with *Assembler Workbench*. As disk-corruption with some ED drives was definitely established, and hasn't occurred on the drives in question since the V2.28 rom was fitted, there may be reason to hope corruption reported on DD and HD disks could be cured by this rom also.

Miracle state that "(the V2.28 rom) fixes the directory corruption problem and also allows the old one-third-height Mitsubishis to be used". The new rom has been tried in my JS and JM systems; unfortunately, it has made the Mitsubishi drives unavailable, so can't be counted a success, for me. Miracle have been asked to look into the problem some more. With the recent drop in price of the GC, Miracle have dropped the Trump Card from their product line, but another, smaller dealer will be selling and supporting it, with Miracle's assistance.

## Text87 Plus4

I waited in vain for a long time for a copy of *text87 Plus-4*. It wasn't hard to guess that a main reason for the delay was the late discovery of bugs, but it is not exactly unusual for programs to be shipped with bugs in them, and beta testers certainly don't expect their copies to be free of problems. There is an old adage that you are only successful if you get noticed, and being caught 'with your trousers down' is not necessarily going to hinder your ca-



# SHOOTER

M S O L V E D

reer — to the contrary, it may well improve your prospects. Looking at the micro scene, it would not be hard to name more than a dozen major programs in world markets that were released when they were scarcely out of the factory test stage, yet were very successful in sales terms. (*Very true, Bryan, and look at all the woe and sorrow that has caused the users.*)

What was all that about? Mainly that I have been unable to say anything much about text87 - a program I have made much favourable comment on in the past - other than that I didn't have the latest version. A copy of Plus-4 2.0 finally got to me in mid-April, and another arrived early in May, together with a revised driver for the Epson GQ-5000 laser printer. Initial experience with it shows it to be much-improved over the previous generations of text87, with considerable expansion of the facilities. There are now windows for different documents, or different views of the same document, a print preview, simplified setting-up of typestyles and attachments, and various other functions.

The menu structure may still be rather daunting for users who have experienced only *Quill*, but commands are straightforward to access, with full use being made of the now-standard method of keying the first letter of the command required (after F3 has been keyed). Inevitably, there are some cases where another letter has to be used, but this isn't a real problem. If the user doesn't investigate the functions which take text87 far beyond *Quill* in capability, there should be no difficulties with the keyings, as they are *Quill*-like. The current version appears stable, suggesting that the bugs in early versions which caused crashes or lock-ups have been fixed. A major feature of text87 has always been the 'real' screen presentation of text, and the ability to print from software founts supplied by *founttext88*.

To users who value what comes out on paper, text87 offers an unbeatable range of founts. If you have a Hewlett-Packard DeskJet with added founts, you can use the *typeset90-DeskJet* drivers to provide print with founts every bit as professional as achieved from current PC programs. The samples provided in the information on new drivers look just the same as ones from a recently-released PC program; using the same printer, you wouldn't be able to tell which computer and program were used.

## Another Special Edition

Not to be outdone, Digital Precision are now sending-out beta-test versions of *Perfection Special Edition*. This version addresses comments made by various users. One such is the ability to move from the first character of the current line to the last one of the previous line by pressing the left-cursor key once, rather than moving the cursor up one line and then using additional keying to move to the end of the line. A small thing, maybe, but one which can transform the program for users (like me) who frequently perform this operation. More important for other users is the increased number of Strips, which will permit more printer functions to be called from within documents (rather than having to be 'hard-wired' in the printer-driver). There are also far more Translate entries for printer-drivers - enough for all but the most way-out requirements. Re-formatting has caused some aggravation, being a (comparatively) slow process in the past. It has been

## More on disks

Those who buy lots of HD 1.44 MB disks should be interested to know that the supplier Mediaware (see INFORMATION box) appears to have dropped some of the pretence associated with selling unbranded disks, and may be supplying branded ones even when unbranded are ordered. It may have been a temporary measure, when filling my order, however, so please don't take this to mean it is policy on the part of this supplier. Specifically, I ordered 50 unbranded ('bulk') HD disks, at a price of 68p plus VAT each; what I got were labelled 'Precision' brand, made by Dysan, one of the main disk manufacturers. Post and packing raised the total price by 1.50 plus VAT, but it covered other disks and two disk boxes, so that the effective price per HD disk was about 80p including VAT. While I generally recommend buying disks without any brand labelling on them, I don't object to branded disks for the same price!

## News from Italy

The Italian QL user group, QItaly, has sent disk number 20, which contains the club magazine for September-October 1991. As usual, this video magazine is well-presented. The screen shot shown gives details

## QITALY CLUB

CLUB ITALIANO PER UTENTI DI SINCLAIR QL

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Tel.(030)6863311 0 Tel.(0342)492323

Quote iscrizione 1992: L.25000 quota associativa  
L.25000 quota integrativa per ricevere QITALY Magazine

Cosa offre il Club:

- 1) 4 numeri annui di QITALY Magazine
- 2) 2 numeri di MONDO QL, rivista su carta
- 3) Consulenze per problemi hardware e software, acquisti di gruppo a prezzi ridotti, programmi PD da tutto il mondo, manuali in italiano, programmi originali ..... e molto altro ancora!

speeded-up considerably and, in the process, Search and Replace operations have received a boost, too.

On the subject of printing, DP has sent in a sample of print from *Professional Publisher* on a HP LaserJet II, and the quality is as you would expect from that printer - considerably better than from your favourite 9-pin DMP.

of membership for 1992. Note that the magazine makes use of other founts and sizes besides the standard QL ones. There are some good colour screen shots taken from new or upgraded programs, details of QL meetings, conversations, correspondence, etc, and articles on subjects of current interest, such as the 3.2 MB ED disk drives from Miracle. Most of the material



# TROUBLESHOOTER

is, naturally, in Italian, but translations are provided for usage instructions, and a fair guess can be made at what is being said elsewhere if you know the subject matter of the text (for example, a letter of mine to Eros Forenzi!)

## Still going out

Despite the fact that the QL production line came to a standstill some years ago, new QLs continue to be sold in significant quantity. One way and another, complete boxed QLs have been seeing the light of day and look set to carry on doing so for another year or so. EEC Ltd. confirm that their sales of new QLs run into four figures, and that they still have a reasonable stock of them. This company has become the main supplier of complete systems, and we receive almost no complaints about it (the only complaint received by me arose from what appeared to be a genuine mail problem, and it was sorted out). In the event of the supply drying up, EEC may have to turn to selling Uncle Clive's new lightweight bicycles to maintain their link with Sinclair!

## Readers' letters

**Brian Kemmett** reports receiving a copy of Professional Publisher from **TK Computerware** without the instruction booklet. TK say they have sent two copies of the booklet since, and re-sent one of them after it had been returned by the Post Office as 'not collected'. As the booklets appear to have been sent Recorded Delivery, and the program disk arrived safely, the Post Office has been contacted by both parties, but the reported responses are not in agreement. Meanwhile, Kemmett cannot use ProPub and has contacted the Trading Standards Office; he has also threatened legal action.

A letter concerning complaints by readers **DR Scott, C McKay and AP Campbell**, sent in mid-March to TK, appears to have gone astray and no reply has been received to it or to a verbal request for comment on their complaints. However, Scott has since written to say he has received the QL Scanner that was the subject of his complaint. **Keith Johnston** listed calls and letters that he has sent concerning a Z88 Centronics interface, ordered on 10th December 1991 from TK and not received as of 3rd April. As with other complainants, his experience is of not getting replies to his 'phone calls and of being told that the goods have been lost in the post. He contacted the Royal Mail Customer Care Unit, and the 'Raw Deal' help section of the Sunday

Post newspaper, but both stated that they had been unable to get a reply from TK. The VISA credit card company pointed out that refunds are not given unless the value of the goods purchased totals more than 100.

Both **Digital Precision** and **Software87** say they have cleared the backlogs of orders which occurred at the start of the year, and the lack of further letters of complaint appears to confirm that all is now back in order.

**B.D. Custerson** sent a 3.5in 720 KB floppy disk, with the message 'Will not format. For discard use' on it. This was in response to my comments on problems with floppy disks and drives. Sure enough, the disk showed no sign of a format, in either QL or PC. Attempting to format it in a QL ED drive produced the message 'format failed', but that was not a conclusive indication that the disk was unformatable. Next step was to try a 720 KB DR-DOS format, and that was successful, with no errors recorded. The same result was obtained from a 1.44 MB MS-DOS format. Obviously, a check with a QL DD drive was needed, so another QL was switched on and attempts at a format made in both a DD and an ED drive; two failures were recorded in the DD, but a successful format, with no errors, was obtained first time, in the same ED drive that had previously recorded a failure. In case the presence of a four-drive adapter, and the ED drives, was influencing results, the dual DD drives were plugged into the second QL on their own; result, a no-error DD format first try.

Back to the first QL, with only the DD drives connected. This time the result was quite unexpected - an error-free 360 KB format! What was different? The first QL system had a JS rom and Mk.2 Gold Card, whereas the second one had a JM and a Mk.1 Trump Card. A four-drive adapter was being used with both QLs, to allow dual ED and dual DD drives to be used together. Finally, the rom in the GC was changed from the 2.28 back to the 2.25 version, and the disk was then formatted successfully, to 720 KB, in both DD and ED drives.

My experience in the past has always been that the QL will almost invariably format without errors disks which give errors on the PC. This instance appeared to be a reversal of the usual situation, but that was very likely a function of the GC rom; Mr Custerson didn't give any details of his system, but the disk is on its way back to him, to see how it behaves now it is formatted, and accompanied by a request for details of his system configuration. Another reader with disk trouble is **J. Paul Bissonnette**, who lives in Otterfing, Germany. His bad disks were branded Sony and had been in use for four or five years. He is quite convinced that the problem lies in the disk media, not in any external influences such as nearby

magnetic fields, misaligned drive heads etc. Regardless of the type of computer used when formatting these disks, bad sectors appeared after about a week, even if the disks were not used. It would have been interesting to look at the disks but, not surprisingly, they were consigned to the rubbish bin.

## Life of Leisure

**P.H. Tanner** has been a constant correspondent for some time, despite being told that my knowledge of programming was quite insufficient to answer some of his queries. His latest letter makes a non-technical point which should ring a bell with many QL users. How many users have discovered that retirement from work doesn't seem to produce any 'free time'? Do you wonder now how you ever found time to go to work at all? Certainly, computing has to be one of the best gap-fillers around; my own experience has been that almost everything else has gone by the board, to make way for the increasing demands of the keyboards. Despite having a diverse background in computing, Mr Tanner resolutely steers clear of some of the devices others regard as essential; for example, he has no disk drives. He still uses Quill for his wordprocessing. However, he has two QLs more-or-less permanently linked together and passing information between them throughout the day. In the PC world, the talk is increasingly of networked computers, on-line to limitless sources of information around the world and constantly passing 'the word' backwards and forwards. Much of what is said can best be described, politely, as rhubarb, but there is undoubtedly some good use for networking and it won't be long before computers are supplied complete with all the necessary devices for linking into networks - modems, fax cards, CD rom drives etc.

## INFORMATION

### Disks and boxes:

Mediaware Ltd.  
Unit 9  
Huntsbank Industrial Estate  
Crewe Road  
Wistaston  
Crewe  
Cheshire CW2 6QT.  
Tel. 0270 666616  
Fax 0270 665556

### New QLs:

EEC Ltd.  
18-21 Misbourne House  
Chiltern Hill  
Chalfont St. Peter  
Bucks SL9 9UE.  
Tel. 0753 888866  
Fax 0753 887149



## **MEDIA MANAGER SPECIAL EDITION MEDIA MANAGER**

Media Manager Special Edition (MMSE) is a program to be used both when things have gone wrong as well as when things are perfectly OK. It allows for automatic, semi-automatic and manual correction of a huge variety of disk and tape problems. It allows you to explore disks and tapes to your heart's content, producing all sorts of different diagnostic reports. MMSE is very simple to operate, being menu-driven and assuming no degree of computer knowledge whatsoever.

MMSE also allows you to tidy, catalogue, sort and order your disks and cartridges.

The standard Media Manager is both less powerful and less user-friendly, but manages to work on an unexpanded QL.

Both programs allow for data transfer between PC and QL. With MMSE, this transfer is at file and directory level, is bi-directional and is completely automatic.

## **SPECIAL DESKTOP PUBLISHER DESKTOP PUBLISHER**

These programs are quite primitive compared to Professional Publisher. However, if you have not experienced that program as yet, you will find both of these very competent. Both are capable of producing excellent results. The cheaper one has fewer features but is able to run on smaller systems.

## **EDITOR SPECIAL EDITION THE EDITOR**

With the sole exception of Perfection, this is the best word handling system on the QL. Editor's features include an unrivalled degree of programmability and the ability to cope with the entire 256 character ASCII set. The Special Edition has enhanced document-type facilities, including column blocks and on-screen page break displays. Neither program is suitable for computing novices. Until Perfection, Editor Special Edition would have been our 'Desert Island Program'.

Editor SE can do a few things that Perfection can't, so the ideal combination is to have both (they are compatible at file level and can multitask). If you order Editor SE at the same time as Perfection, you can have Editor SE at half price.

## **PROFESSIONAL ASTROLOGER PROFESSIONAL ASTRONOMER**

The Astrologer program teaches you Astrology from scratch and enables you to automatically produce text narrative on personality delineation, year-to-year and minute-to-minute life predictions, compatibility interpretations and so on. Whether or not you believe in astrology - indeed, especially if you do not - this program is one that you cannot afford to have. You can tailor the readouts (both in terms of quantity and what is said) to your own particular requirements. The amount of fun you can have with this program is endless. Do not blame us if you start believing in astrology, though!

Astronomer is an extremely fast and accurate solar system calculator, with planetarium views, planet faces, eclipses, cinerama display etc.

## **TURBO BASIC COMPILER**

Turbo is the finest BASIC compiler for the QL and arguably the finest BASIC compiler for any computer!

Turbo automatically converts working BASIC programs into optimised machine code, usually with no need for human intervention. The benefits of this conversion are vastly enhanced running speed (as well as much faster loading, encryption and automatic bug fixing for a variety of QL interpreter oddities). Typical speed-up is 40x - 100x.

Turbo is provided with a 200 command toolkit, adding many useful commands to BASIC. Most of these commands will be of immediate use to the programmer, whether he is a novice or an expert. There are commands to load strings and floats into RAM, and to extract them automatically; to search memory and to move its contents; to control jobs and change their priorities, manage pipes, allocate and deallocate memory, to control both rubber and virtual arrays, to present INPUT with an editable default, to have random access to files and much more.

## **TOOLKIT III**

Toolkit III starts where Toolkit II stopped, adding about 60 new commands and enhancing many existing dual functions. Toolkit III is available either on disk or on ROM, and works whether or not you have Toolkit II.

Toolkit III commands can, with only a couple of exceptions, be compiled using Turbo.

## **QFLICK CARD INDEX**

All QL owners have a copy of Archive, supplied free with the QL. While Archive is competent, it is very hard to get to grips with and is not particularly fast. QFlick presents a very convenient alternative - a snappy, simple-to-use, pointer-controlled card file database. You can move data between QFlick and Archive in either direction.

QFlick is not itself programmable but we document its data structure and give guidance on how to program it using Turbo.

## **ARCHDEV + RTM DATABASE ANALYSER ARCHIVE TUTORIAL NAMES + ADDRESSES MAILMERGE DAT-APPOINT SEDIT SCREENPRINT RECOVER**

This suite of utilities will greatly enhance your use of the Archive database system.

Archdev + RTM is a straight replacement for Archive: it gives enhanced speed, greater workspace and a much cleaner boot-up. All your existing applications will work.

Database Analyser provides very fast and comprehensive statistics about your Archive databases.

Archive Tutorial proceeds systematically through the whole philosophy and grammar of Archive, providing you with expert and patient guidance.

Names + addresses, Mailmerge and Dat-Appoint are ready-to-run, off-the-shelf Archive applications, providing an address database, mailmerging and appointment diary respectively. You now have no excuse not to use Archive.

SEdit allows you to create and edit screen format files in Archive. Screenprint allows you to print them out.

Recover allows you to get back lost Archive databases, created when you switched off the computer without properly exiting from Archive.

## **XREF SUPERBASIC MONITOR BETTERBASIC EXPERT SYSTEM**

XRef analyses the structure of a BASIC program, providing detailed reports on things like variable usage, what calls what, dynamic call hierarchy of procedures and functions, and so on.

SuperBasic monitor actually monitors and reports on the performance of BASIC programs as they run under the interpreter.

BetterBasic analyses and automatically corrects structural flaws in your programs and allows you to customise things like indentation, number of statements per line, filtering out of noise words, etc.

The three programs together provide a matchless diagnostic and auto-correcting facility for BASIC programs.

## **TRANSFER UTILITY**

This program copies files at high speed between devices, performing translates as it goes along. Ideal for all sorts of applications, including transfers from microdrive to disk.

## **QMATHS SYSTEM**

This is an incredible mathematical compendium for the QL. Pride of place goes to the symbolic problem solver: this can solve equations, simplify expressions, factorise, expand, etc. all symbolically. If you could sneak this one into a maths examination, you would have a formidable ally. QMaths knows about all the algebraic operators, powers, roots, brackets, trigonometry, matrices, determinants, vectors, factorials, permutations, combinations, binomials, exponentials, logarithms, hyperbolics, inverse functions, infinite series including Taylor & Maclaurin expansions, complex numbers, conversions, Fourier series, and lots of calculus: both differential and integral, including integration by parts and definite integrals. QMaths optionally displays its workings and comes with a superb interactive tutorial.

The package also contains an interpretive, fractal, image-generating language with loads of beautiful fractal programs supplied for you to use and edit - no programming skill is required.

There is also a multiple precision floating point maths package, giving calculations at precisions up to over 600 decimal digits of accuracy.

There is even more to this system, but we think we have told you enough.

## **QMON MACHINE CODE MONITOR**

The latest version of Tony Tebby's superb monitor: an absolute must for those who really want to know what is going on in the QL. No other machine code monitor even comes close.

Do not confuse this program with SuperBasic monitor, which monitors SuperBasic, not machine code.

## **COMPARE**

This program compares files - data or program - at colossal speed. Where a mismatch is detected, the relevant areas are highlighted and you can shuffle, displace and align very easily.

## **CASH TRADER WITH ANALYSER PAYROLL**

Cash trader with Analyser is an accounts system designed by businessmen and not by wretched accountants! Consequently, it has excellent reporting and management facilities, and is very flexible. It is aimed primarily at the layman, probably a sole trader running a small or medium sized business. All the features you would expect - including audit trail - are present.

Payroll is a reasonably flexible system designed to automate the payroll function in small businesses.

Both programs are configurable, with editable defaults letting you adapt the programs from year to year.

## **HARDBACK WITH FINDER**

This is the ultimate hard disk backup and management utility, with all the sophisticated features you could want. User dialogue is via overlapping pop-up windows - the whole program just feels right. It is possible to scan the disk at great speed, too.

## **DISKTOOL WITH QUICKDISK**

This permits you to add password protection to disks, to optionally increase disk storage capacity on DSDD drives by 36K and to increase speed of access by as much as 30%. All this is done while maintaining full compatibility. Automatic file management is also provided.

## **DIGITAL C SPECIAL EDITION DIGITAL C**

These are extremely fast and efficient C compilers, complying with and surpassing the Small C definition. The Special Edition goes much further, including support for structures, pointers, long pointers, >64K code size, direct access to QDOS traps, etc. The Special Edition C generates code that runs about twice as fast as the other.



## PERFECTION SPECIAL EDITION WORD PROCESSOR

The most versatile, friendly and powerful word-processor of all - PC users, eat your hearts out! Another year's work on PERFECTION has produced PERFECTION SPECIAL EDITION, with all the features of the previous version plus much much more (yes, we have been listening):

- \* Improved user-friendliness and even better feel.
- \* Stores and recalls upto six "environment" settings (each setting including all tab, margin, justification etc positions for very easy document manipulation) at the touch of a key. This transforms the use of the program!
- \* Now eight strips (previously 4) to support greater variety of printer functions such as changes of fonts and sizes.
- \* Now allows 64 other translates (of up to 63 characters each), for those with sophisticated printing needs - an improvement of sixteen times. Also a new print terminate option, allowing a reset of printer controls and flushing of the print buffer. Improved printer driver now supports all PERFECTION string editing commands (F5, up, down too).
- \* Totally compatible with all document files (own, standard PERFECTION, Quill doc, Editor and SE, ASCII, Archive/Abacus/Quill/text87 export, non-ASCII, machine code, compressed data etc) and with printer data files (own, standard PERFECTION, Quill printer dat) - no re-entering!
- \* Greatly accelerated reformatting speed - typically five times faster than standard PERFECTION. No longer any need to wait around if you wished to change (say) margin and/or justification settings of all or most of your document.
- \* Greatly accelerated global search and replace - typically four times faster than standard PERFECTION.
- \* Numerous other speed enhancements too.
- \* Improved and enlarged Configurator, Dictionary Utility and Stripsort.
- \* Greatly improved piping of output to the Professional Publisher system, giving thousands of fonts, full pixel-proportional spacing with auto-everything, even down to the choosing of the allocation of % of space added "between characters" and "between words" to an accuracy of four thousandths of an inch, you can auto- prevent ugly hyphenation (too few letters in front or behind) and word-wrap (words too spread out) effects, superb output quality and undreamed of flexibility. Nothing else on the QL gives you anything like this level of flexibility and quality of printed output (many superlatives of fonts, hundreds of sizes, wrap-around (contour) graphics and pictures.
- \* Improved cursor navigation.
- \* Merging now works for both PERFECTION saved and exported files as well as for ASCII non-PERFECTION files.
- \* Much more besides...
- \* PERFECTION SPECIAL EDITION costs £99.95, or £139.95 with Spellchecker and three dictionaries (i.e. PERFECTION PLUS SPECIAL EDITION). The price of standard PERFECTION has been reduced to £59.95, or £99.95 with Spellchecker and three dictionaries.
- \* Existing PERFECTION users can upgrade to PERFECTION SPECIAL for the difference in current price plus £10 (so £50 to upgrade from either PERFECTION to PERFECTION SPECIAL EDITION, OR PERFECTION PLUS to PERFECTION PLUS SPECIAL EDITION - return all disks but no manuals). Please upgrade now as the upgrade price is liable to be increased soon.

## LIGHTNING SPECIAL EDITION GOLD CARD VERSION

For Gold card users only, we are supplying a version of LIGHTNING SPECIAL EDITION identical to the current version of the other one but without the ROM (which is redundant if you have Gold Card) at the reduced price of just £39.95, or as a £25 upgrade from standard LIGHTNING (return everything). Gold Card owners who have the LIGHTNING SPECIAL EDITION with ROM can send DP their ROM cartridge for a £5 credit towards future orders. Alternatively, you can upgrade from the "full" SPECIAL EDITION to the Gold Card version for free (return your disk and ROM, not the manual) as you will benefit from the updating, accelerating and refining that has gone into LIGHTNING SPECIAL EDITION since you purchased your's (our latest update was on 15th May 1992).

## DESKJET/LASERJET DRIVER FOR PROFESSIONAL PUBLISHER

If you have one of these Hewlett Packard printers, this addition to the Professional Publisher range is an absolute must at £19.95 - output quality is superb.

## COPY UTILITY FOR BACKING UP

### TRANSFER UTILITY SPECIAL EDITION

COPY gives you a full-function interactive backup (no more fiddling around with WCOPY!) with plenty of options. TRANSFER UTILITY SPECIAL EDITION can back-up, transfer, make translates and now even sorts (on a variety of options, including filename, creation date and size) before creating an optimised (for speed of access) copy - and all this at lightning speed, faster than WCOPY or similar!

**MANY NEW PRODUCTS ANNOUNCED HERE  
AND ON THE STOP PRESS PAGE!!**

## CHEAP MICROCARTRIDGES

£50 for 50, £80 for 100, all inclusive. Why pay more?



## PC CONQUEROR GOLD SPECIAL EDITION

A fantastic all-new software system making your QL into a PC and enabling it to run PC software. PC CONQUEROR GOLD SPECIAL EDITION will operate only with GOLD CARD (or other QL hardware giving 1.5 Mb RAM or more). It has (of course) all the features of standard PC CONQUEROR, and in addition:

- \* Full and automatic support for expanded memory (complying with all the relevant PC standards). On a Gold Card, for example, the user will get 736K base memory (vs only 640K on "real" PCs, and 667K on standard PC CONQUEROR) PLUS expanded memory variable between 0K and 944K (could be higher if you have even more RAM on your QL). The presence of expanded memory improves the performance of most PC software, and is essential for the operation of some of the more modern and/or advanced PC programs. Further, no separate "driver" needs to be installed from the DOS, saving even more RAM over conventional PCs and operating systems (where a difference of as little as 4K is considered worth mentioning as a substantial advantage). Part or all of the expanded memory can be allocated to ramdisk(s) and/or disk cache(s).

- \* Full support for high density (HD) disks (though the PC CONQUEROR GOLD SPECIAL EDITION works perfectly well on single or double density drives too, if that is what you have), giving you 2880 sectors per disk. You can now read, write and format PC HD disks (provided of course that you have HD or ED drives on your QL), and the disks you use will be completely interchangeable with (in both directions) and indistinguishable from DD and HD disks produced on a "real" PC! Disk access speed for HD is better than twice the speed of double density (which was all that standard PC CONQUEROR could handle). Of course you can still read, write and format PC DD disks too, if you wish.

- \* You can now easily create a PC "hard disk" on any QL device (including floppy disk) and boot up from it if you wish. From within the PC, that drive will look and behave just like a hard disk (and a very fast one too if you use RAM as the QL device). From QDOS the hard disk will look like a normal QL file, so backing-up is a dream! Specifically, if you have (or are going to acquire) ED drives (from Miracle Systems or elsewhere), you will now be able to create any number of pseudo-hard disks (with over 3,200,000 bytes per individual disk), and automatically boot from them if you wish. Disk access speed is typically five times faster than with DD drives. This is an excellent way to use PC CONQUEROR GOLD SPECIAL EDITION.

- \* Automatic sensing and switching between disk types (360K/720K/1.44Mb) at DOS level, with manual override!

- \* Up to just over 50% faster operation than standard PC CONQUEROR on most Gold Cards (PC CONQUEROR GOLD SPECIAL EDITION automatically determines whether your Gold Card can run the software at accelerated speed. Even if it cannot, you will still get faster operation than with the standard PC CONQUEROR).

- \* You can design, if you wish, your own colour map so that all screen colours are configured to your liking - tailor PC programs so that they look the way you want them to (of course, no PC can do this).

- \* Many other optimisations and features, enlarged configurator and supervisor mode.

- \* Fully compatible with all versions of MS-DOS, DR-DOS and PC-DOS from v1.0 to v6.0 (latest) inclusive.

- \* PC CONQUEROR GOLD SPECIAL EDITION package includes a copy of the standard PC CONQUEROR too, in case you have other QL setups with less than 1.5 Mb RAM.

- \* PC CONQUEROR GOLD SPECIAL EDITION costs £99.95 including VAT and delivery. Standard PC CONQUEROR has been reduced to just £59.95 inclusive - excellent value - and SOLUTION PC Emulator to just £29.95 inclusive. Existing Digital Precision emulator owners can upgrade for just the difference in current advertised price, plus £10 (so the upgrade from PC CONQUEROR to PC CONQUEROR GOLD SPECIAL EDITION is just £50, for example - return only the disk and not the manual. The upgrade from SOLUTION is £80: send back everything). Please upgrade now as the upgrade price is liable to be increased soon.

## DR-DOS v6.0

DOS v5.0 has now been superseded by DR-DOS v6.0 with many new features, probably the most useful of which is disk compression "on the fly" (i.e. data is automatically compressed before it is written to the disk and automatically decompressed as soon as it is read off the disk - so everything works as before). Compressions range from 2x - 8x depending on the type of file: imagine how huge your storage devices will become! There many other enhancements over v5.0, including an on-line DOS tutorial, built in disk cache, many diagnostic and backup utilities and much more. DR-DOS v6.0 will work with all our PC emulators. The price including all documentation (two large manuals), ready reference guide and our pre-configured QL/DR-DOS v6.0 disk (ready to run) is £80, or a concessional £70 if you have purchased an earlier DOS from us (this is not an upgrade - you keep the old DOS too). If bought at the same time as PC CONQUEROR GOLD SPECIAL EDITION, the combined price is £179.95, or £139.95 with the standard CONQUEROR, or £109.95 with SOLUTION.

## QMATHS MATHEMATICAL SYSTEM PART TWO

A follow-up program to complement QMATHS, giving excellent and optimally speeded Mandelbrot and Julia set visuals, enhanced statistical functions, terrain plotting, function evaluation and much more. The price is £59.95, or just £99.95 for the pair (QMATHS Parts 1 and 2) - a saving of almost £30!



## SPECIAL DEALS

5% off total if you buy 2 programs/upgrades;  
10% off 3; 15% off 4; 20% off 5; 25% off 6+  
Upgrades cost difference in price + £10  
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For full terms and conditions, please refer to any of our QL World ads from Jan-Nov 1990, or write in including a SAE

## CPORT BASIC TO C CONVERTER

This program translates SuperBasic programs directly into C source code, automatically. This C source code may then be edited or compiled. If you want to move programs to C for migration to other hardware, or want to accelerate your programs, or just want to learn C the easy way (chuck BASIC in one end and examine the C that spews out of the other), CPort is the system for you.

CPort is friendly and tolerant of poorly written BASIC. There is even a method of dealing with unusual BASIC keywords. The generated C, which can be switched between the ANSI and Lattice Industry standards, is very readable and is often optimal. CPort's user interface is extremely friendly. CPort is available with or without the C68 compiler.

## SUPERFORTH COMPILER WITH REVERSI

Forth is the most logical computer language. This compiler produces multitasking code. The manual teaches you Forth-83 from scratch.

## IDIS SPECIAL EDITION IDIS

These intelligent disassemblers make the otherwise terrifyingly complex task of understanding other people's machine code programs absurdly easy. The SE version, which has a higher hardware requirement, sorts out some routines, replaces addresses with names, untangles data from code and much more.

## QKICK FRONT END SYSTEM

This is a simple, easy-to-master, pull-down menu controlled multitasking front end. QKick runs in the background and can be called up at any time. It provides you with notepads, sophisticated file/sector/RAM handling, backing up facilities, a clock, diary, calculator, mini-database and so on.

## ADVENTURE CREATION TOOL SPECIAL EDITION

ACT is a must for every programmer. The name of the program is misleading, insofar as it has capabilities far beyond the 'mere' creation of adventures. ACT has utilities providing animated graphics, data compression, language design, parsing, maps, object-oriented control etc. If all you want to do is generate adventures, though, you do not need to be a programmer to use it. This is a purchase you will never regret.

## PEDIT

A fast, modern and capable printer driver for the programs bundled with the QL.

## MICROBRIDGE

Superb contract bridge bidder (ACOL etc) and player, using millions of random but reconstructable hands. Microbridge also includes a state of the art interactive bidding tutor and a clear instruction manual. There is nothing like this anywhere else!

## SUPER ASTROLOGER

A very cut-down version of Professional Astrologer - still great fun, though!

## SUCCESS CP/M EMULATOR

Allows your QL to run CP/M programs at great speed.

3-D PRECISION CAD SYSTEM	£ 49.95	d
ADVENTURE CREATION TOOL SPECIAL EDITION	49.95	e
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KEY>>>>>> Available either on cartridge or disk		a
Available only on disk		b
Minimum 512K exp:only available on disk		c
Minimum 256K exp:either cartridge or disk		d
Minimum 256K exp:only available on disk		e
Available only on cartridge		f
Minimum 1.5Mb RAM:only available on disk		g
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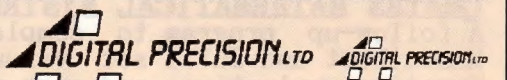
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Encl: CHEQUE/VISA/ACCESS/MASTERCARD/PO/MO/CASH for £ .....

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Delete as appropriate: (QL/THOR/STQL)(MDV/3.5"/5.25")(Disk=360/720/1440/2880/6400 sectors; nb 1 sector=0.5K)(If 720 sectors: SSDD/DSSD)





# QL SCENE

## Miracle hands Trump Card over to Qubbesoft

Miracle Systems have licensed production and support of their popular and long-standing memory expansion units, the **Expanderam** and the **Trump Card**, to Ron Dunnnett of Qubbesoft.

Said Stewart Honeyball of Miracle Systems: "The time we were taking on administration and so on was taking attention away from designing new stuff, and we decided that it was not really sensible for us to carry on doing it. Ron is in a better position to do it, and we thought that it was far better to hand it over to somebody else than to ditch it." Support both

for existing Trumpcard and Expanderam users will be through Ron in the first instance, although, Stewart says, "We will be working closely with Ron."

This move will come as a surprise to Miracle customers who have known the Trump Card as a popular and long-standing item on Miracle's list. It reflects in part a situation in which the Trump Card and Miracle's Gold Card were effectively in competition with each other, at a time when Miracle wish to devote their resources to developing and stretching the QL hardware base. Ron Dunnnett himself has considerable

hardware experience, particularly in the area of disk drives, and has recently taken his redundancy from a long-standing career as an opportunity to devote time to his QL hardware and software business.

The Trump Card will now retail at the slightly lower price of £95, the 512K Expanderam at £45, and the zero-ram version of the Expanderam at £20.

An item which is staying firmly on the Miracle product line is the recently-redesigned Centronics serial to parallel converter. All the electronics for this classic item are now contained in the metal

hood of the Centronics plug - "It's pretty neat," says Stewart. The price is now down to £25 all inclusive.

On the Qubbesoft front, Ron adds that the C68 C Compiler is now up to version 3.00, updated with a 64-bit floating point and other advances. The new larger source code is not yet available, as it is being archived to two disks "rather than increase the number of disks".

Contact Ron Dunnnett at **Qubbesoft, 38 Brunwin Road, Rayne, Braintree, Essex CM7 5BU. Tel. 0376 47852.**

## Digitiser Now Gold Card compatible

The CQV1 real time video digitiser manufactured by CL Systems is now compatible with the Miracle Systems Gold Card. Hardware and software modifications have been made to handle the increased processing power of the Gold Card. The speed increase measured with the Gold Card in use is more than 2.5 times, translating to a picture update time of 12.5 frames per second in quarter screen, and 7 frames per second in full screen mode. CQV1 users with the Gold

Card can now achieve near-full-live-motion video on the QL screen.

CL Systems is offering an upgrade to current users who return their old QV1. The unit will be modified and returned with the upgraded Imaged software. The upgrade cost is £30 for UK users and £33 for overseas users, inclusive of all carriage.

Orders and enquiries to **CL Systems, 403 Chapter Road, Dollis Hill, London NW2 5NG. Tel/fax 081 459 1351.**

## NASA bug warning

NASA Computing in Norway has a message for customers who bought the new file manager disk Mate at the Munster show: a bug which can damage data when the 'Write dir' command is used has been fixed. The bug arose from a fix on an earlier bug in the development process. Users should return their original disks for the free upgrade to:

NASA Computing, Nerheim, N-5580 Olen, Norway.

## Back Issues

There have been a considerable number of enquiries about back issues of QL World recently. We are still trying to find out where older back issues are available, and we will publish a guide to what is available and how to obtain it shortly.

## Upgrades and new material from Merz

Jochen Merz Software has released QD 4.00 at the Munster workshop. New features of the program include GOTO a list of SuperBasic procedures, functions or assembler labels; improved search/replace menu with four different search strings, and others. An upgrade for current users, with a new manual, costs £10 when the current disk is returned.

A new game running under the Pointer Environment is *The Lonely Joker*. This combines three different patience games (similar to those seen on some versions of Microsoft Windows), which can be played with or without the mouse. The game costs £14.90, and a ram extension and SuperToolkit is required.

Merz showed Qdos running on the Atari-ST QL Emulator with a 68030 card running at 32 MHz, with programs running approximately 1 to 20 times faster than an unexpanded QL. The software for

68000/10/20/30/40 versions will be available after April. The 68030 accelerator board costs £500 for a 25 MHz version and £600 for a 32 MHz version, and will fit every Mega ST.

For users lacking an 1005-compatible ACSI/SCSI adaptor, the new Lacom adaptor from Merz can be used to connect SCSI drives to the Atari ST. Small and convenient at 11 by cm, it costs £66.

The QL Emulator itself can now be bought for only £139.

Another new product is the QL SER Mouse, a mouse-driver for serial IBM-style mice to one of the QL's serial ports. It behaves in a similar way to the Qimi mouse, but has three buttons, with ESC in the middle, WAKE to middle+left, and SLEEP to middle+right. The driver costs £13.90.

Contact **Jochen Merz Software at Im stillen Winkel 12, 4100 Duisberg 11, West Germany. Tel. (local) 02 03 501274.**



# A Quantum Leap in QL Wordprocessing

We are proud to present our new state-of-the-art wordprocessor, **text87plus4**. After a long period of development leading to its first release, and another two months spent incorporating users' suggestions, the definitive, optimised version of **plus4** is ready.

**plus4** is not just an improved version of the original **text87**; it is a complete rewrite from scratch. Recent technology advances have allowed us to develop a program which is MILES ahead of any QL application. We have kept the technology of the original **text87**, including our state-of-the-art series of printer drivers which exceed the capabilities of the latest PC wordprocessors.

## text<sup>87</sup> plus4

### +1 USER FRIENDLY TO THE EXTREME

You will hardly ever need our new well-written manual. An automatic setup and installation program allows you to select a suitable driver for your printer and copies all the necessary files to your disk. Run **plus4** and a menu allows you to load a file or start a new one. An extra line of instructions and another line containing the current setting are displayed. Press <F1> and a window offers more help related to the menu options (context-sensitive). If you select Load you do not have to remember the file name; just press <UP> or <DOWN> for a list. Use the same keys to select the file that you wish and press <ENTER>.

This user-friendly command system governs the program in every area. Extensive context-sensitive help is only an <F1> away. No need to type in file-names, etc. If the program can offer a list in a selector box. Commands and key-presses are highly compatible with those used in Quill and function keys perform the same operations.

### +2 THE MOST POWERFUL QL WP

**Plus4** provides all the navigation and editing facilities you would expect and a lot more. Extensive editing facilities include cursor move (by character, word, line, paragraph, screen, page) erase (by character, word, line) block operations (copy, move, delete) goto (line, page, top, bottom, section, block). Insert and overwrite modes. Very fast search and replace backwards and forwards, case dependent and independent. Special characters include hard-space, hyphenation, hard and soft hyphens. In operation **plus4** reformats the text as you edit and preserves the format of each paragraph no matter how many different formats you use in your text. Everything is automatic.

As a Quill user you would naturally expect your wordprocessor to remember different tab and margin settings for a document. You would expect to freely add to old texts without having to bother about those settings over and over again. Not surprisingly, **text87** is the only other QL program that supports this important, user friendly feature of Quill.

**File Operations** include load, save, merge, block save (in plain ASCII or as fully formatted document) Import (Quill files retaining bold, underlined, etc. or any other file, including those exported from Archive and Abacus or from other programs). The combination of all these powerful commands enables you to move text from one document to another effortlessly.

Integrated **Spell Checker** displays selector boxes for browsing the dictionary and automatic replacement of the selected word. This is automatically capitalised if the original began with a capital. Choose between large (over 210,000 words) and small English dictionaries or French or German (all supplied with the program). You can add any word in your text to the dictionary by just pressing a key. Your word lists can be saved and loaded at will or added to the dictionary on a permanent basis. (You can actually edit the dictionaries to your requirements).

**Multi-Window Multi-Document** **plus4** goes far beyond multi-tasking. With one copy of **plus4** up to 8 document windows can be open simultaneously. Up to 8 files can be on screen and more than one window can be open over a document so that you can edit the text while looking at a different part of it or at a different document. Resize, Zoom, Tile and Stack commands allow you to arrange the windows manually or automatically and switch instantly between them.

**Page-Preview and Pagination** Page and column ends are constantly displayed on the screen. **plus4** takes into account all the changes of line spacing (you can fine tune the line spacing in different parts of the text between 0 and more than 1 inch). The Page preview command shows your text in full A4 (and other size) pages. Each word is represented by a rectangle, giving a realistic picture of the printed page before you commit the text to paper. This command alone will save you a lot of time and effort.

### +3 UNRIVALLED PRINT QUALITY

In text and character formatting, **text87plus4** is miles ahead of the so-called competition. Simply, no other QL program can produce similar results. Used with the appropriate printer-driver, **text87plus4** can utilise the different founts and character sizes built into modern printers. It fully supports proportional spacing (such as used for this text) and justifies correctly. You can use any combination of small and large founts on the same line and be assured of a perfect printed result. You can set up multiple paragraph formats with different margins and line-spacing for each. You can use any combination of ordinary tabs with right, centre and decimal tabs in each line of text. You can also format the page the way you want, using several columns plus headers and footers. For desktop publishing, you can use several different page layouts in the same document.

**WYSIWYG** (what you see is what you get—pronounced wizzy-wig) Several years ago this word referred to the absence of printer control codes from the screen. It is now used to distinguish word-processors which display different amounts of line-spacing and different character sizes and styles (e.g. double width, proportional). **text87plus4** is the only QL wordprocessor that can be called WYSIWYG by current standards.

### +4 FASTEST QL WORDPROCESSOR

Figures speak for themselves. We tested **text87 plus4** on a QL with memory expansion and disk drives and on an Atari ST with QL emulator. A seventy page text of over twenty four thousand words and one hundred and forty one thousand characters was used for these tests. Load Document: 25s. (ST/QL 17s.). Save Document: 37s. (ST/QL 32s.). Case sensitive search from the beginning for a unique word at the end of the text: 2.5s. (ST/QL 1s.). Automatic search and replace (includes automatic reformat of modified text) 580 instances: 43s. (ST/QL 14s.). Change justification from full justified to left justified or back: Less than 2s. (ST/QL 1s.). Change right margin from 66 to 72 units and reformat whole document: 105s. (ST/QL 32s.). Move block of ten pages from top to bottom (including manual marking and positioning): 35s. (ST/QL 15s.). Scroll the whole screen over text line-by-line (either up or down) 100 lines: 19s. (ST/QL 5s.).

**plus4** is supplied with over 30 ready-made printer drivers supporting 9pin and daisywheel printers. Extra drivers for 24pin, Bubblejet, Deskjet and laser printers support the resident letter-quality founts built into the printer. All our drivers come with predefined translates for QL's extended character set.

**plus4** is fully compatible with all QL roms. Gold Card, ST QL, etc. Requires disk drive and 256K memory.

#### Prices (inclusive of Air Mail to overseas)

<b>text87plus4</b>	<b>£ 79.00</b>
upgrade to <b>plus4</b> from v. 3.00 (limited period)	<b>£ 39.00</b>
<b>2488</b> drivers for 24pin and Bubblejet printers	<b>£ 19.00</b>
<b>typeset90-deskjet</b> drivers for all HP Deskjets	<b>£ 19.00</b>
<b>typeset90-Epson</b> GQ3500/5000, EPL4100 /7100 lasers	<b>£ 39.00</b>
<b>fountext88 + founted89</b>	<b>£ 39.00</b>
Graphic driver for 9 & 24-pin printers with over 30 founts	

**SPECIAL OFFER!** If you have paid over £59 for any other QL wordprocessor you can upgrade to **text87plus4** for only £59. The manual from the other software is required as proof of purchase (It will be punched and returned to you). This special offer expires at the end of August 1992.

For immediate dispatch, send cheque, Eurocheque, to: **Software87, 33 Savernake Road, London NW3 2JU**



# QL

# S

# C

# E

# N

# E

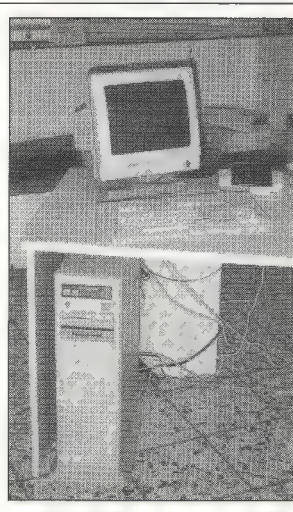
## COWO expand their range

Cowo Electronic, publishers of QTop, have expanded their range of QL products, alongside its SuperQL hardware project. They have brought back to the market the text editor ArcEd, formerly sold by the now apparently-defunct Dansoft. The program has been revised and updated, and a fee update is available to current users on return of the original disk, self-addressed envelope and return postage.

The SuperQL project has been codenamed ExeQtor. The first tower-mounted machines were delivered in December 1991 and 12 were spoken for by the end of March. Cowo is planning a limited edition of up to 50 units.

Cowo is now the main, if not the only commercial support for the Thor range, and they have an extensive list of products for the Thor, including Argos rom upgrades, mouse and eeprom programming service. Users with Thor enquiries are asked to quote their model and specification; serial number; Qdos version number; SuperBasic version (use PRINT VER\$); Argos version; IO rom version (Thor XVI); XChange version; total ram size; keyboard type (language, 84 or 102 keys); whether the SCSI port is installed and if it works; manual type (version and language) and any other relevant information.

Orders and enquiries to **Cowo Electronic, Urs Konig, Munsterstrasse 4, CH-6210 Sursee, Switzerland.**



## Text87 Plus4

**Text87 Plus4** is now available from Software87. Plus4 is a bottom-up re-write of the established wordprocessor text87, best known for its high-quality multiple-font handling.

Among other accomplishments, the new text87 offers an enhanced menu system with context-sensitive information; new dialogue boxes; cursor move by character, word, line, paragraph, screen and page; erase by character, word, line and block; block and goto operations; very fast search and replace in both directions, case dependent and independent; hard space and hard and soft hyphenisation. File operations include merge, block save as plain Ascii or fully formatted document, import (*Quill* files retain style markers) including *Archive* and *Abacus* files; spellchecker with dictionary browse and automatic replacement supplied as standard, with size and language options, including American within the large English dictionary; up to eight documents open at once, with more than one window available per document; page preview.

Continuing its tradition of font handling, text87 Plus4 can use 'any combination of small and large fonts ... multiple paragraph formats with different line-spacing for each ... several columns plus headers and footers ... used with the appropriate printer-driver, text87 Plus4 can utilise the fonts and character sizes built into modern printers.'

Text87 Plus4 also focuses on fast document handling. Times of 5 seconds to reformat a 385-line document (after a margin reset), and 5 seconds to perform a 58-instance search and replace are quoted. Plus four is designed to be fully compatible with all QL roms including US roms, the Trump Card, Gold Card, QL/Atari emulator, *QPac II* and *Taskmaster Toolkit II*. Altkeys can be Hotkeyed in the Pointer Environment.

Text87 Plus4 costs £79. 2488 24-pin drivers cost £15, typeset90-deskjet drivers for HP Deskjets £20; same for GQ3500/5000 and EPL4100/7100 £40; founttext88 and founted89 for 9- and 24-pin printers £40. Existing users should enquire for an upgrade price. Prices include all carriage including airmail overseas. Orders (cheque, Eurocheque, postal orders) and enquiries to **Software87, 33 Savernake Road, London NW3 2JU, UK.**

## DIY correction

There was an error in the *DIY Toolkit* \_DEF project published in January and February's *QL World*. Graham Worsnop of Surrey has spotted that the table at the end of the code lacks a terminal zero word. This could cause CALL to lock the machine, and has been corrected in the current DIY disk version.

There is no problem if the code is loaded onto the common heap with *Turbo Toolkit*'s ALLOCATION or the DIY Toolkit extensions LINKUP and RESERVE, as zero bytes are automatically added to pad the space to an eight-byte boundary. The same is true if RESPR is used on Minerva while tasks are running.

However the extra zero word must be added before loading the code into resident procedure space, or merging it with other toolkit files.

To correct the hex loader, change the last line to read thus:

```
1010 DATA
'46250000','*',52617
```

If you have saved the code file but not the loader, this sequence of commands will load the old file, link it correctly to Basic, and save the corrected version:

```
X=RESPR(628)
LBYTES FLP1_DEF_CODE,X
POKE_W X+626,0
CALL X
SBYTES
FLP1_NEW_DEF_CODE,X,628
```

To fix the assembler source, add DC.W 0 just before the end. Simon Goodwin apologises for the error and will try never to make the same mistake again!

### Machine Code Errata

One line faded out of Listing two in Systematic Machine Code Programming last month (part 7). The faded line should read:

```
CMPLB BYTE,A1 ;BYTE
ADDRESS IN A1
```

Let us know if any other lines were faded in your copy.

## QL Systems WANTED

QL user Brian Richardson of Wallington is hoping to gather together a QL system for the use and assistance of residents at the Harvest Care Homes and school for the elderly and mentally disabled, which QL World understands has been affected by government legislation withdrawing support.

Mr. Richardson says that he "grew up with Sir Clive, metaphorically speaking, so I am used to computers he designed up to and including the QL." What he needs to start his project is donations of working QL hardware. He says: "Anything will be of use, broken, smashed, or in (hopefully) perfect working orders; expansions, disk drives, monitors, printers, software, anything QL-related at all, even single microcassettes or games."

The residents of the home have learning difficulties, but, says he, "You never know, one of them may turn out to be the computer genius of the future!" Who needs genius? Anyone who can offer anything to help these people to become regular computer users, like the rest of us, please contact **Brian Richardson at 21, Firefly Close, Roundshaw Estate, Wallington, Surrey SM6 9HE.**



# OPEN CHANNEL

Open Channel is where you have the opportunity to voice your opinions in *Sinclair QL World*. Whether you want to ask for help with a technical problem, provide somebody with the answer, or

just sound off about something which bothers you, write to:

Open Channel, Sinclair QL World,  
The Coach House, Tackley, Oxon OX5 3BN.

## Support

I have started to write letters on the subject of the QL's future a number of times. Each time, my thoughts have changed, and the letter has not been finished. I have been working for a large publishing software house (that does not support the QL!) for a couple of months now, and the company attitude to hardware and software (we use Macs, PCs, Amigas and workstations among other things) has helped stabilise my ideas.

After all the pie-in-the-sky comments on the subject, hope-

fully the following represents a down to earth view.

1) Emulation - in other words, trying to perpetuate the QL scene through another machine's success. To my mind, whether the QL is pretending to be a PC (or Amiga, or whatever), or whether we provide another machine with ways to run QL software, the result is much the same: actually having a machine is better than emulating it. Running software on a machine in its native mode is far more efficient than emulating it. The best emulation is comparatively inefficient. In any case, there is no way you can emulate a Mac.

2) Total rebuild - redesigning

the QL to be utterly desirable and selling millions. This is unlikely. Look at the manufacturers who pour millions of pounds into new machines and operating system upgrades. Unless a complete 'new QL' could find some previously hidden niche market, its sales would never justify the development costs that would be incurred.

3) Upgrades - or, why change a winning formula? Why not? They work, they keep current users using the machine, have lower development costs, and provide an incremental upgrade path. Not only that, but there are well-established QL suppliers - who are expert at producing well-considered, marketable upgrades - who have kept the machine going as long as it has already.

The point of my letter is: don't waste time dreaming of transporting the QL to some mythical glory. Instead, support the likes of Miracle Systems, TF Services and Digital Precision, and so on. In return, they are likely to do everything they can to keep the QL strong. If you want to see a 'Super QL' - buy their products, don't pirate software, and tell them what you would want to buy in the future. They are capable of doing the rest.

**Andrew Toone**  
Liverpool

*Editor's comment: the main problem encountered by the QL over the years is that the hardware has been somewhat unreliable and indiosyncratic compared to, say, PC hardware. I say 'somewhat' advisedly; anyone who uses a PC compat for other than basic wordprocessing or spreadsheeting will know that the frustration and timewasting of getting hardware and software running easily matches that of other formats. We have now come to a point where long experience is producing consistently efficient upgrade paths - often at first or second stab, which is a good record. In other words, Andrew is right.*

## Stuck

Somebody may be able to help me with this. I am using Quill to write my letters, and I have a problem with the Printer\_Dat. At the end of the letter, the printer head stays at the same position that it stopped in. When the next letter is printed, the carriage return does not work and the printing starts in the middle of the page.

The only way that I can get over this is to switch the printer off and on again, so that it resets.

The printer I am using is a Taxan, and has been installed correctly as far as I know, using the information in QL User, September 1985.

Carry on with the good work.

**A R Kempton**  
Southampton

## Thanks

Thank you so much for sending replacements for the two issues of QL World which did not come: Lazarhold have sent us a copy of the January 92 issue, but that was all. I am so pleased that we once more have an unbroken sequence from the May 1986 issue, which was bought just after we got our first QL.

Since then, most of what I know about computers generally, and the QL in particular, has been gleaned from QL World: my wife relies on me for anything 'technical' (the blind leading the blind?) as she uses the QL mainly for WP and family history research.

Having finally settled back here from Gibraltar, we are waiting for the arrival from there of our household stuff, including the second QL. Then we'll have one apiece, and no more competing for 'hands on' time!

Many thanks for all the interest and accurate information: we do appreciate it very much.

**Gordon and Dorothy Perrett**  
Weymouth  
Dorset

## Editor's notebook

To my great joy, everybody by now should have their first copy of the new QL World, with our new address, new phone number, new information on subscriptions, and explanation for our recent idiosyncratic scheduling. No more waiting for post lying lost at Panini House. No more wrestling with subscription cheques made out to HHL (or even Maxwell).

Then there is the new typesetting system. New to us, that is: we would like to get a line from anyone who has experience of porting text straight from a QL system to a Mac system. I am also collecting ways of converting QL text files for the PC-based part of the system. The most successful route so far uses PC Conqueror, which converted a text file, including assembly language listings, losing nothing but the tab markers.

Richard Alexander of CGH comments that they publish a program called 3D Terrain as well, and that it is not the same as the one from Sharp's that we reviewed last month.



## Abacus

*Abacus* is much under-rated. I am often surprised how much programming is possible in a single cell. More articles on Abacus, please. Does anyone know how to Order in reverse, ie largest to smallest? Most other spreadsheets can order in either direction.

Among the spreadsheets I use are monthly bank statement reconciliations, which I keep for a couple of years. An update program I have written automatically deletes reconciliation sheets over two years old. This depends on each file having a recognisable name which indicates the date, and is not more than eight digits long. I always put the file name in cell A1, and for the reconciliation sheets I use a form 'Chb9203' (as for March 1992). I include in cell G1 the number of the month which is used at various points on the sheet. Increasing this number produces the next Monthly sheet. In order to produce a new filename in cell A1 at the same time, I coded in the following:

```
"Chb"+date(0)(3 to
4)+if(G1<10,("0"+chr(index(col()
+6,row()+48)),("1"+chr(index(col(),
+6,row()+38))))
```

This produced the required result, but it will not all print out if F for formulae is selected - only the first 60 characters will print.

Another spreadsheet I use is a monthly account, and I wished to add each month's totals to an annual summary. Again the number of the month in cell G1 produces the correct heading on the monthly accounts. The coding is best explained with an example. Row 41 is the annual summary for a particular month; the name of the month is in cell B41 and one of the End of Month totals is to be taken from the monthly account held in cell D9 and copied into D41, but only if it is for the correct month. I coded

D41: 'if(B41=month(G1),D9,D41)'. The result is a little disconcerting. On the screen the cell D41 may contain, say, £45.00, but if the cursor is put on D41, the 'contents' at the bottom of the

screen contain the coding above. The only way to zero out the annual summary at the start of a new year is to zero-fill all monthly totals, then cycle cell G1 through from 1 to 12.

**E E Stocker**  
Waterlooville  
Hampshire

## Trumpeted

May I, through your column, express my sincere thanks to Steven Honeyball of Miracle Systems who resolved a Trump Card disk drive interface problem for me free of charge. The fact that I had purchased it second hand and that it was brought to the latest Mod state makes it all the more impressive and a refreshing change in an age of indifferent service.

**Keith Lock**  
Portwell  
Dorset

*Comment: Yes, gladly. This is actually the second letter I have had recently thanking Steven for his help and assistance. Which means that ... either Stuart has opted for a name-change after all that publicity we gave him back in April ... or that we have finally discovered how he gets through enough work for two men!*

## Save and

When you write a program you should save it often, especially when you test and debug it. Sometimes it may be hard even to remember which program you are working with. I have made a little procedure to do the deleting and saving job.

```
10 DEFine PROCedure
sav(names$)
20 IF LEN(names$)<1 THEN
60 DELETE
"device"&"myprog"
70 SAVE
"device"&"myprog"
50 ELSE
30 DELETE "device"&name$
40 SAVE "device"&name$
80 END IF
90 END DEFine sav
```

Line 20 checks that if there is no given name together with procedure name example sav " ", then it first deletes the old "myprog" program and saves a new version of it. Else, if you

have typed sav "test1" with a name in it, it deletes the program named "test1" and saves the new version of it. This way, you can save different versions of the program easily. When I start to write the program I first load that procedure and chance the name "myprog" to the name of my working program. I haven't seen such a program yet in *QL World*, so if you are interested to print it, it has been a great help to me.

**Kalevi Hämäläinen**  
Tampere  
Finland

*Editor's comment: Backing up files in development under Qdos has always posed a puzzle. The standard solution is to save the file under alternate names, deleting the last-but-one file as you go. Using the routine above saves time but has two risks: should the power fail, or the computer lock, while the delete-and-save is in progress, both files will be lost. Also, if a test file with the same name exists on your directory (for example, from another program you have been developing recently) that file will be overwritten without warning.*

*What is needed is a similar routine which will re-name the previous file as a backup, and write the current file to the main filename, deleting the previous backup file (last file but one), reducing the danger of losing all files if a malfunction occurs during the saving process. Checking for duplicated file-names during a delete-and-save process is another story.*

## Big words

There seems to be an implicit belief (for instance, Bryan Davies mentions it in the February *QL World*) that the larger the dictionary in a spellchecker, the better. Digital Precision's *Perfection*, and the new version of *text87* offer vast dictionaries, but for most users these are actually less useful than smaller ones.

There is a difference in purposes between a paper dictionary and an electronic one. The first provides us with words we do not know; the other traps wrong spellings of words we do know. Some of those incorrect spellings will form real words, maybe unknown to us, but to be found in a large dictionary, and so passed as correct by a spellchecker using such a

dictionary.

For example, if I were to type 'dod' instead of 'did' - an easy slip a small spellchecker would throw this up, but a large one might not, because such a word exists. My 12-volume *OED* has a third of a page giving seven definitions of 'dod'.

There is a need to study the optimum size for a spellchecker. Clearly it should include all the words we know, and none that we do not, but since we all have different-sized vocabularies perfection (with a small p) is impossible. I believe the best compromise is a dictionary of about 15,000 words with the facility for the user to add his or her specialities.

**Ken Whyld**  
Caistor  
Lincoln

*Editor's comment: Perfection (with a big P) offers a choice of spellchecker sizes from moderate to very large; the new text87 Plus4 offers its English spellchecker in a choice of two sizes. The ability to add to (or edit) the dictionary is perhaps the most important facility in any spellchecker.*

## Seconds out

With reference to the article *Three in the Hand* by Mike Edwards in the April *QL World*, I was surprised to read Mr Edwards' comparative speed trials of similar functions on the three wordprocessors in question. I have no experience of *The Editor* or *text87*, but have used *Perfection* a great deal and am keen to defend it.

Mr Edwards claims that to move a block of text or to relate a string takes *Perfection* 25 seconds. From my experience that this is untrue. Even while working on long files, I have found that *Perfection* can move a block of text, practically independently of its size, position and distance moved, in under three seconds. I have also found *Perfection* to be equally fast in replacing strings, although this is obviously more dependant on the particular variables involved. Perhaps Mr Edwards forgot the decimal point in some of his results!

The article also suggests that it is impossible to change the printer driver data during each printing session. To put the record straight, different printer data files can be brought into use at any time through the normal menu system.

**John Bunce**  
Mill Hill  
N London



# SOFTWARE FILE

## INFORMATION

**Program:** Polytext  
**Price:** £17.50  
**Supplier:** CGH Services,  
 Cwm Gwen Hall,  
 Pencader, Dyfed,  
 Cymru SA39 9HA  
 Tel (0559) 384574.

Many QL users have, over the years, become accustomed to Quill's very own way of working, and tend to be loathed to change, despite the idiosyncrasies of this now somewhat dated program. One of the main features missing from Quill is the ability to present text in column formats (such as you would find in a newspaper or QL World).

## Reprocess

Nick Ward has produced *Polytext* with such users in mind. It cannot alter Quill itself to produce columnar output; instead it takes the Quill generated '.lis' files and then pre-processes them prior to sending them to a printer to give the desired number of columns. What is more, Polytext has a limited ability to allow you to merge small pictures with the text, thus enabling the user to create output which is both varied and a little more professional in appearance than would otherwise be the case.

Polytext is supplied as a collection of various files on a disk (or microdrive), together with a 14-page A5 manual. The manual would appear at first glance to be more than adequate, but, unfortunately, if you do experience problems when using the program, the manual is of little help (the problems mainly seem to relate to failings of the program rather than of the manual), and recourse to the publishers is the only real answer.

A boot file is supplied on the disk version of the program (a minor contribution by yours

It is quite simple to go into various columns of printing. Although you cannot see anything in Quill as you type the document (this would require a complete re-write of the Quill program), you can put a Polytext command at the start of each paragraph, telling Polytext how to format the text once it has all been typed and is ready for printing out. All of Quill's normal features are available as if you were using Quill's

very own printer\_data file. These of course cover high script, underline, Bold, and low script, as well as all of the possible combinations.

On top of this Polytext allows you to format the different paragraphs in Normal plus Elite sized print, compressed print, double height and double width (although of course, this will depend very much on your printer's own abilities).

**Rich Mellor finally gets his very own column! (This month only.)**

# POLYTEXT

truly), which enables you to access easily Quill and the various utility programs provided by Polytext. Although each of the Polytext programs can be multitasked, Quill itself will get in the way unless it has been patched to stop it from grabbing all the memory.

You are better off setting up a separate disk for use with Polytext, containing the different Polytext files and the Quill program file. This is because the standard Quill program will only recognise 'printer\_data' as its printer driver information file, and any files which are to be processed by Polytext must use the special version of this (which is supplied).

The manual explains that any documents written within Quill must be altered slightly if they are to be processed by Polytext.

The amendments necessary are very minor. Once you have written your document in Quill as normal you will then need to plan how your document is to be laid out (ie which parts are to appear in columns and how many columns). This should really be done by hand on paper so that you can decide the optimum column widths and gaps between columns.

## Amend

Once the layout has been planned, you will then need to amend your Quill document (from within Quill) by typing in the various Polytext commands. The commands appear in curly brackets and are only necessary where the layout is to change. These commands tell Polytext whether to justify right, centre or left, the number of columns

to print with the width of the columns and the margins, the typeface and the name of a graphics image to merge with the document.

The justification commands (eg {~PJR}) are quite simple to use, but as with all Polytext commands (other than the graphics command), they must appear on a separate line above the paragraph(s) to which they relate.

The most complex of the other two sets of commands is the command which sets up the format for columnar output. This takes five parameters specifying the number of columns, the gutter, the column width, the number of lines between changes in layout, and the text type. Polytext can handle up to seven columns across a page, but on a standard 80-column printer three or four columns will really be the acceptable limit. The size of the gutter is up to you, but there is no option to set a larger left margin than a right margin and so whatever figure you decide upon, your text will appear centred. The formula needed to calculate the maximum width of a column is actually different to that printed in the manual and is in fact:

## POLYTEXT DEMONSTRATION

The title was produced quite simply by using the normal Bold and Underline commands of Quill, but also including two Polytext commands to ensure that the title was in the centre of the page and was in enlarged text.



$((\text{column width}+1)*\text{number of columns})-1+(2*\text{gutter width})<\text{line length}$

For those users who find it difficult to calculate the column width, one of the programs in the Polytext package, `reck_obj`, will work out the optimum size for you. This is a very simple program and although the manual does not go into depth about its operation, it is easy to use.

Last, but not least, the user has to include the 'text type' in the Polytext command. This tells Polytext whether to print the next few columns in one of five text styles (normal, elite, condensed (or reduced), double width or double height); although the actual effect of these styles will depend upon your printer (some printers, for example, can print double-height, single-width text, whereas others can only print double-height, double-width text). Unfortunately this text type can only apply to the whole of a paragraph (although Polytext will support the normal Quill typefaces within a paragraph as well as NLQ and Italics).

The figures show prepared for Polytext output. There are some odd characters at the top and end due to certain of Polytext's idiosyncrasies (see below).

## Print

Adding pictures to a Polytext document is also quite easy – you merely need to include in your document a command similar to {PG:f1p1-example-pic}. Some users may find that the printer driver falls down on their machines in this area, and it cannot be altered by the user (unlike the text printer driver). However, if you have an Epson compatible printer, you should not have any difficulty (the program worked fine on my MT-81). The program could however do with a little more development in this area, since the graphics printer driver is quite slow and can only handle simple pictures – and is suitable for logos or simple clipart. The program does not handle colour

well and the user will tend to be restricted to black and white images.

## Text types

By way of assistance, a simple program is included in the package to 'grab' parts of QL screens for use by Polytext. This program is again relatively simple to use – you merely have to load the program and enter the name of a screen file. You can then choose the part of the screen to be 'grabbed' by placing two crosses at two diagonals of the required area. I would have preferred this to have been achieved using a rubber-banded box, but then this package is never quite as easy to use as it should be. The actual area allowed is dis-

The program can then be run (press R), and it works quite slowly, reading in the document paragraph by paragraph and reformatting it as required. The program shows the document on screen as it is processed (although this is definitely not WYSIWYG) so that you can get some idea of whether your format commands are having the desired effect. This generally works okay, but I was somewhat surprised to find that the program failed with an error ('Index out of Range') on an extra paragraph which appeared in the original of Figure one (this was without apparent reason and deleting the paragraph allowed the program to continue without any further problems).

## So what is my conclusion ?

Polytext takes Quill a long way from what it once was. It would have been nice if the actual columns were visible from within Quill as you were typing, but the method Polytext uses to get around this should not pose

appointingly small, but should prove adequate for relatively simple pictures when used in a multi-column part of a document.

Anyway, having prepared your Quill document, you will then need to Print the document to a file, using the special version of PRINTER.DAT supplied with the package. Having done this, you can leave Quill and enter the main Polytext program.

The main Polytext program starts up with a small window which invites you to set certain parameters. You will need to enter the name of the document (the '\_lis' file produced by Quill) and check that the page length, line length and printer control filename are correct. Polytext does not have any defaults for the filename and therefore filenames should be entered in full (including the drive and \_lis suffix). You can also set the top and bottom margins, the start page number and the footer (no headers are supported). The footer will need to be in the form of text followed by the page number, followed by more text if required, and can be left, right or centred. This allows as much complexity as Quill, but nowhere near as many options as *Perfection* (by Digital Precision), for example.

At the end of each page, the program gives you the option to print out the page, see a 'cameo' of the page or go onto the next page. Requesting a

## Cameo

cameo will give you an idea of how the whole page will be laid out (although it might have been better to leave this on display while the page was being processed) and you can then decide whether it will look too cluttered before deciding to print it out. **Figure two** shows a page of the final formatted document.

Users who have a slightly different printer to those which the program currently supports may be able to get a printer control file from the suppliers, but for the unfortunate few who are still having problems, you will need to alter the file 'PRINT.DAT' supplied with the disk (this should not be confused with the Quill PRINTER.DAT file which should not be altered). The manual explains that to alter the printer control file you will need to load it into a text editor or import it into Quill.

The actual control file consists of various descriptions fol-

lowed by printer command sequences. The sequences should be altered to suit the codes listed in your printer manual (if you are having difficulty, I am certain that the suppliers will help you), and control such things as the end-of-line commands, commands to switch on and off bold, underline, near letter quality, italics, condensed, double-height, double-width, elite, subscript and superscript. You can also alter the commands needed to switch your printer into graphics mode (assuming it supports a 480 pixel per line graphics mode). Unfortunately, the control file (and Polytext) does not support translates (you therefore cannot generally print both £ and # in the same document),

preamble or postamble codes. This is a major omission especially in view of the fact that the status of the printer when Polytext starts its

work will inevitably be a moving target. The simplest answer to the lack of a preamble/postamble code is to include them in your Quill documents – looking in the QL manual (concepts section) you will see that you need to press CTRL ; to get ESC. You can therefore build up the standard printer initiate sequence by typing CTRL ; and then @ (giving ESC,@).

Polytext does, however, use four translate sequences to switch on and off italics and NLQ. It is therefore possible to turn these on and off from within a paragraph, but it is somewhat obscure that the user cannot supply their own translate sequences, especially since Quill would normally support 10 such sequences!

## Dependent

Overall, Polytext is a nice idea but could do with certain extra features to make it really useful. The actual output produced is highly dependent upon the type of printer being used and therefore only those users with the more recent printers will be able to make the most of the program. It often strikes me as a set of routines looking for a program.



# Just for Starters

In the third and last part of his Basic programming tutorial, Don Smith adds two remaining procedures.

**T**his final article outlines the missing procedures: alter and abstract. There are various methods for altering the fields of records, some quite elaborate with either a moving asterisk or cursor with special windows for effect. A simple and perfectly adequate one numbers each field, and only requires a single keypress to initiate alteration. I suppose my programming is somewhat spartan, but then I am concerned with results rather than artistry.

## Data Jumping

Line 2090 indicates that you can jump through the data in large or small steps. Pressing Tab moves forward 625 entries in one go, and F1 back the same distance. The remaining function and cursor keys reduce the jumps to a final one step at a time. SElect operates a second time to prevent overstepping the boundaries. I have deliberately omitted an insert, since it is almost as quick to use the menu's 'Enter data' to add the extras and then sort. You can also use the Alter procedure as a viewfinder, without making alterations, simply to nip about your entries, checking here and there. This is quicker than screen list. Of course, screen list could be improved by inserting a line at 825 to enable listing to commence from any chosen point and then emending lines 830 and 850.

```
825 input#0,'From which line?';to 18;s:
cls#0
830 for x=s to cost(0)
850 if(x-s+1)/20=int((x-s+1)/20) then
```

By now you may begin to appreciate how addictive programming can be, like an art form, always capable of improvement. A useful abstract procedure is much more difficult to plan for the reader because of the wide variety of choices. I have chosen as an example to pick out the titles by a given author, but it could equally have been books of a certain vintage, authors covering certain topics, etc. The bulk of the procedure would still remain the same, only those lines where a comparison is made would need changing.

There are two ways to abstract. You can start from the beginning, finishing at the end. The time taken is quite bearable even

for a few thousand and, more importantly, the list can be unsorted. The second method requires a sorted list, where a binary search locates a required entry in a fraction of a second. The program then backtracks to the earliest correct entry, then forward to the last one. I have given you the option of either and also the option of printing to screen or printer.

## Binary Quirk

The binary search has a built-in quirk. If you miss out the 0.5 in line 2610 and your required entry happens to be the very last entry, it will never find it. Similarly, with the 0.5 in place, the first entry will never be found, which is the reason for line 2600.

Suppose that you had 10 items and the

### Listing One

```
2020 :
2030 rem-----ALTER DATA-----
2040 defproc alter
2050 x=1
2060 rep loop1
2070 alterline
2080 rep loop2
2090 cls#0: print#0,'TAB,F1-5,cursors - 625,125,25,5,1,
menu - ESC, alter - press number, delete - D':
i=code(inkey$(-1))
2100 sel on i
2110 =9: x=x+625: =232: x=x-625: =236: x=x+125
2120 =240: x=x-125: =244: x=x+25: =248: x=x-25
2130 =200: x=x+5: =192: x=x-5: =216: x=x+1
2140 =208: x=x-1: =27: exit loop1: =49 to 52,100: exit loop2
2150 end sel
2160 sel on i
2170 =9,236,244,200,216: if x>cost(0): x=cost(0)
2180 =232,240,248,192,208: if x<1: x=1
2190 end sel
2200 cls: alterline
2210 end rep loop2
2220 cls#0
2230 sel on i
2240 =49: print#0,aut$(x)\fill$('- ',25): input#0,aut$(x)
2250 =50: print#0,title$(x)\fill$('- ',40): input#0,title$(x)
2260 =51: print#0,year$(x)\fill$('- ',4): input#0,year$(x)
2270 =52: print#0,cost(0): input#0,cost(x)
2280 =100: less=cost(0)-:
2290 for w=x to less
2300 at 18,40: print w: aut$(w)=aut$(w+1): title$(w)=
title$(w+1): year$(w)=year$(w+1): cost(w)=cost(w+1)
2310 end for w
2320 cost(0)=less
2330 end sel
2340 end rep loop1
2350 cls#0: menu
2360 enddef
2370:
2380 rem-----LINE FOR ALTER-----
2390 defproc alterline
2400 cls: at 6,10: print'Entry ' ;x to 30;'1 ' ;aut$(x)\to
30;'2 ' ;title$(x)
2410 print to 30;'3 ' ;year$(x)\to 30;'4 ' ;cost(x)
2420 enddef
```

### Listing Two

```
25 input#0,'From which line?';to 18;s: cls#0
30 for x=s to cost(0)
50 if(x-s+1)/20=int((x-s+1)/20) then
```



required entry was the 10th. The search starts off with low=1 and high=10, so the variable 'av' commences as (1+10) divided by 2=5.5 with 'int' removing any decimal places, making it 5. Line 2630 lifts 'low' up to value 5. We now have (5+10+ divided by 2, then 'int', giving 7. If you continue, you will find that you cannot get beyond 9! The binary search operates within a REPEAT loop and only needs around 20 loops to find an item in half a million, all in a fraction of a second. This is why line 2640 counts each looping, because if you haven't found it by the time 'count' equals 20, then it isn't there. Line 2660 checks this and if a value greater than 20 is noted the program switches via the alternative at line 2930 and prints a message to screen. If an item has been found that corresponds to the search, then from line 2670 a search is made backwards to find the first mention. Having located it, at 2740 searching proceeds forward to the final appearance of the required name. Now knowing 'start' and 'finish' line 2810 proceeds to print out data.

## Printer Tips

One very useful tip if producing much printer hardcopy is to be found in line 3260. The Epson handbook, which was very easy to follow, gave clear instructions for setting tabs horizontally across the page, using chr\$(9). I found however, that whenever printed data came close to the next tab setting, the printer invariably overshoot the mark and then backtracked to the correct tab setting. This meant that instead of a smooth passage of the ribbon cartridge from one end to the other, it proceeded in a series of jerks, back-forth-back-forth, taking twice as long to print. If you consider the second fill\$, which prints blank spaces as they all do, I have allowed 27 spaces for author, which itself has just 25 maximum characters. By doing a subtraction, 27 minus the length of the author, the result is how many blank spaces before the next item so that all columns are in line. Also it gives a quick check of how much space the printout will take. In line 3260, we have 5+27+42+6+ cost, which equals 80 plus characters. Since Elite (line 2570) allows 97 characters per line, we have plenty of space.

If you are a novice reader and you have successfully got the program up and running, sufficient techniques have been covered to enable you to string together other programs for your own use. Moreover, when you write your own programs, nothing can go wrong that you can't go back and correct - and improve. You are in control. The QL even usually tells you which line it cannot accept so that you can list or edit the line to find out your mistake. In the final analysis, one's whole thought processes are subtly altered (for the better), the more programming you undertake - an alternative to yoga!

## Listing Three

```

2430 :
2440 rem-----ABSTRACT MENU-----
2450 defproc abstract
2460 at 4,35: under 1: print'SORTED LIST': under 0: print\\
to 15;'A'to 20;'Author'
2470 at 9,35: under 1: print'RANDOM LIST': under 0: print\\
to 15;'B'to 20;'Author'
2480 j=code(inkey$(-1))
2490 sel on j
2500 =97: sortedaut: =98: randomaut
2510 end sel
2520 enddef
2530:
2540 rem-----ABSTRACT SORTED AUTHORS-----
2550 defproc sortedaut
2560 cls: cls#0: input#0,"Author's name(with or without initials)"
to 45;nam$
2570 print#0,'To screen - 1, to printer - 0': screen=inkey$(-1):
if not screen: elite: space12
2580 high=cost(0): low=1: count=0: long=len(nam$)
2590 rep binary
2600 if aut$(1,1 to long)=nam$: av=1: exit binary
2610 av=int((low+high)/2+.5)
2620 if nam$>aut$(av,1 to long): exit binary
2630 if nam$>aut$(av,1 to long): low=av: else: high=av
2640 count=count+1: if count>20: exit binary
2650 end rep binary
2660 if count<=20 then
2670 rep back
2680 if av>1 then
2690 if aut$(av,1 to long)=nam$: av=av-1: else: start=av:
exit back
2700 else
2710 start=av: exit back
2720 endif
2730 endrep back
2740 rep forward
2750 if av<cost(0) then
2760 if aut$(av,1 to long)=nam$: av=av+1: else:finish=av:
exit forward
2770 else
2780 finish=av: exit forward
2790 endif
2800 end rep forward
2810 for x=start to finish
2820 if screen then
2830 seeline
2840 if (x-start+1)/20=int((x-start+1)/20) then
2850 cls#0: print#0,'Press any key to continue or ESC -
back to menu'
2860 c=code(inkey$(-1)): if c=27: menu: else: cls
2870 endif
2880 else
2890 prinline
2900 endif
2910 endfor x
2920 if screen: cls#0: print#0,'Press any key for MENU':
pause: menu: else: formfeed: menu
2930 else
2940 cls: for y=1 to 3: at 15,30: paper 7: ink 0: print
'NAME NOT FOUND': pause 50: cls: pause 25
2950 endif
2960 paper 2: ink 7: menu
2970 enddef
2980 :
2990 rem-----ABSTRACT UNSORTED AUTHORS-----
3000 defproc randomaut
3010 cls: cls#0: input#0,"Author's name, with or without initials"
to 45;nam$
3020 print#0,'To screen - 1, to printer - 0': screen=inkey$(-1):
if not screen: elite: space12
3030 long=len(nam$): found=0: search=0
3040 for x=1 to cost(0)
3050 if aut$(x,1 to long)=nam$ then
3060 if screen then
3070 seeline: found=found+1: search=search+1
3080 if found and found/20=int(found/20) then
3090 cls#0: print#0,'Press any key to continue or ESC -
back to menu'
3100 c=code(inkey$(-1))
3110 if c=27: menu: else: found=0: cls
3120 endif
3130 else
3140 prinline
3150 endif
3160 endif
3170 endfor x
3180 if search=0 then
3190 cls: for y=1 to 3: at 15,30: paper 7: ink 0: print
'NAME NOT FOUND': pause 50: cls: pause 25
3200 paper 2: ink 7
3210 endif
3220 if screen: cls#0: print#0,'Press any key for MENU': pause:
menu: else: formfeed: menu
3230 enddef
3240:
3250 defproc prinline
3260 print#4,x;fill$(' ',5-len(x));aut$(x); fill$(' ',27-len(aut$(x)));
title$(x);fill$(' ',42-len(title$(x)));year$(x);
fill$(' ',6-len(year$(x)));cost(x)
3270 enddef

```



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# Abacus: only following orders

**I** P H Warne turns his Abacus spreadsheets to the task of keeping track of standing orders and other money movements.

**N**igel Bates' article in the July 1991 *QL World*, on using *Abacus* to reconcile his bank statement, was a useful example of the simplest use of a spreadsheet. But most of the hard work was still being done on the stubs of his chequebook. One direct debit left out of the reckoning can give you a nasty shock when you find yourself in the red!

The spreadsheet described here is a means of keeping a regular check on your bank account to avoid that situation. Personally, I need to know in advance if I have to transfer money from my savings to my current account to avoid bank charges. Practically all our living expenses, apart from food, are settled by standing orders or direct debits, including Poll Tax, water rates, electricity, gas, car purchase, insurance, mortgage, etc. When trying to estimate what the state of the account will be on a certain date, it is easy to forget one or another of these payments. Others may wish to know how much they can safely withdraw from their current account for savings and investments, or to buy an expensive item.

The finished product will not look like a bank statement, with all entries in chronological sequence and three columns from Credits, Debits and Balance. Instead, this spreadsheet has two columns for each month (one for text, with credits and debits in two blocks. The sheet also overlaps into January of the following year to allow for checking until the bank sends the final statement for the year.

The biggest problem concern regular payments and/or credits, particularly those due quarterly or biannually. For an account spreadsheets to be useful, all these should be entered automatically once the due date in each month is passed. So it may be helpful to analyse the conditions which must be met for a debit or credit to be included in the account column for a particular month:

1. The date of the account must be on or

TABLE 1

Column widths (use F3 G W nn col ENTER col ENTER):-  
A 16; C 1; E 1; all others remain at 10 unless you wish to increase the width of the monthly 'text' columns (H, J, L, N, etc.). A width of 12 will still allow printout in condensed font across 3 A4 pages.  
Numbers to 2 decimal places (F3 U D ENTER ENTER)  
Settings via Design command (F3 D)  
Auto-calculate OFF (A)  
Zero shown as blank (B)  
Set any other design parameters you require (e.g. lines per page, characters per line) at the same time, then ENTER

TABLE 2

A1 Optional text (Account number, etc.)  
E1 Optional text ("For current Balance go to cell AExx")  
A2 Text "ACCOUNT FOR YEAR"  
B2 Text "1991" (or current year)  
A3 Text "DATE:-" (Right justified with F3 J ENTER  
ENTER R A3 ENTER)  
B3 askt("Enter date, with format DD/MM/YY ")  
I3 month((col()-7)/2)  
Copy (F3 C) I3 to K3; I3:K3 to M3; I3:O3 to Q3; I3:Q3 to Y3  
Calculate (F3 X)  
AF2 Text "YEAR" (Right justified)  
AG2 str(val(B2)+1,2,0)  
AH1 Text "DATE" (Right justified)  
AI1 Text "CONSTANTS:-"  
A13 (N.B. see text for instructions on entering this)  
"19"+B3(len(B3)-1 to )+"/"+str(val(B3(instr(B3,"/")+1  
to ))+100,2,0) (2 to )+"/"+str(val(B3+100,2,0) (2 to )  
days(AI3)  
AI5 val(AI3(6 to ))  
AI6 val(AI3(9 to ))  
AI7 int((AI5/3-int(AI5/3))\*3+0.1)  
AI8 int((AI5/6-int(AI5/6))\*6+0.1)  
Convert to integer display with F3 U ENTER I ENTER AI4:AI8  
ENTER  
E4 Text "Balance Brought Forward:"  
H4 Text "-----"  
I4 Balance  
A5 Text "CREDITS"  
I15 Text "-----" (Right justified)  
G16 Text "TOTAL CREDITS:-"  
I16 if((col()-7)/2>#AI5+if(val(#AI3)=val(#AG2),12,0),0,sum  
(I4:I15))  
Copy I15:I16 to K15; I15:K16 to M15; I15:Q16 to Q15; I15:Q16  
to Y15  
AH16 sum(I16:AG16)  
A17 Text "STANDING ORDERS & DIRECT DEBITS"  
F17 Text "1st/Latest"  
B18 Text "Start Date:"  
D18 Text "Last Date:"  
F18 Text "Payments" (Centre justified)  
G18 Text "Amount:" (Right justified)  
A19 Text "1. MONTHLY:-"  
B20 Date of 1st. payment in standard format  
C20 if(#AI4<days(B20),15,if(#AI6<val(B20(9 to )),-1,0))  
D20 Date of final payment  
E20 if(#AI4>days(D20),15,if(C20+#AI5=0,12,0))  
F20 if(C20=15,B20,if(E20=15,D20,str(val(#AI3)+if(#AI5=1,  
C20,0),2,0)+"/"+str(#AI5+C20+E20+100,2,0) (2 to )+B20  
(8 to ))  
G20 Amount of payment  
I20 if(C20<15 and days(#B2+"/01"+B20(8 to ))>days(B20) and  
days(#B2+"/01"+B20(8 to ))<days(F20),G20,#H4)  
similarly at K20,M20,O20, to AE20, except that for "/01",  
type "/02", "/03", "/04", etc. N.B. DO NOT USE the COPY  
function. The formula in each column is different.  
AG20 similar to I20, except that #AG2 is substituted for #B2  
in formula.



after the first payment is due;

2. The due date in that month must be on or after the date of the first payment;

3. The due date in that month must be on or before the current date;

4. The due date in that month must be on or before the date of the final payment.

These last two conditions are convergent, and may be restated as a single condition, viz:

3(a). The due date in that month must be on or before the date of the most recent payment.

The treatment of dates in Abacus is limited. Dates are ten character text strings with three possible display formats, but for use in calculations they must be in the format YYYY/MM/DD, with leading zeros if necessary. All other formats will be rejected, with error reports. The days() function will give the number of days elapsed since 1 January 1583, but there is no complementary function, as there is in SuperBasic, to give the date string from the number of days elapsed since that date. If one wishes to compare or manipulate years, months or days of the month, it is necessary to slice the date string and use the val() function, converting the result back to text, if required, with the str() function. Leading zeros are inserted by adding 100 to the modified val() and slicing off the first digit of the subsequent string. The disadvantage of all this is that it tends to make the formulae for date manipulation rather long and often longer than Abacus of the QL will accept (the Psion PC4 and Exchange programs will accept longer ones).

### First and final

Two columns, B and D, are allocated to show the dates of the first and final payments of a direct debit or standing order. The restriction on length of formula has been overcome by having a 'flag' column for each of these dates, which a third date column uses to calculate the date of the most recent payment. The formula in each month's column to calculate compliance or non-compliance with the three conditions above then becomes relatively simple and brief.

The formulae have been drawn up to make date manipulation totally independent of a particular year. The dates shown in columns B and D can, therefore, be the true limiting dates for that particular payments; and to start a new year, it is only necessary to change the year in one cell (B2). The only drawback to this is that the memory required is more than the 23K which a spreadsheet on an unexpanded QL is allowed. However, the formulae can be modified provided all the dates in columns B and D relate only to the current year and the thirteenth monthly column is omitted - more about that next month.

A small block in the top right hand corner of the spreadsheet shows the current date in the format Abacus requires, and below

```
Right justify text in cells I20:AG20
A21 Text "2. QUARTERLY:-"
B22:AG22 same as for B20:AG20 except for
C22 If (#A14<days(B22),15,int((val(B22(6 to ))/3-int(val(B22(6 to ))/3))*3+0,1)+if(val(B22(6 to ))/3=int(val(B22(6 to ))/3) and #A15<=3,0,0))
E22 If (#A14>days(D22),15,if(#A15<C22 or (#A15=C22 and #A16<val(B22(9 to ))),-9,if((C22<3 and C22>#A17) or (C22=#A17 and #A16<val(B22(9 to ))),3,0))
F22 If (C22=15,B22,if(E22=15,D22,str(val(#A13)-if(E22=-9,1,0),2,0)+"/"+str(#A15-#A17+if(C22=3 and #A15=3,0,C22)-E22+100,2,0)(2 to )+B22(8 to )))
and the formulae in cols.I to AG are only copied to the relevant months for that particular payment.
A23 Text "3. BI-ANNUAL:-"
B24:AG24 same as for B22:AG22 except for
C24 If (#A14<days(B24),15,int((val(B24(6 to ))/6-int(val(B24(6 to ))/6))*6+0,1)+if(val(B24(6 to ))/6=int(val(B24(6 to ))/6) and #A15<=6,0,0))
E24 If (#A14>days(D24),15,if(#A15<C24 or (#A15=C24 and #A16<val(B24(9 to ))),-6,if((C24<6 and C24>#A18) or (C24=#A18 and #A16<val(B24(9 to ))),6,0))
F24 If (C24=15,B24,if(E24=15,D24,str(val(#A13)-if(E24=-6,1,0),2,0)+"/"+str(#A15-#A18+if(C24=6 and #A15=6,0,C24)-E24+100,2,0)(2 to )+B24(8 to )))
A25 Text "4. ANNUAL:-"
B26:AG26 same as for I22:AG22 except for
C26 If (#A14<days(B26),15,0)
E26 If (#A14>days(D26),15,0)
F26 If (C26=15,B26,if(E26=15,D26,str(val(#A13)-if(#A14<days(#A13( to 4)+B26(5 to ))),1,0),2,0)+B26(5 to )))
A27 Text "OTHER DEBITS:-"
Copy I15:AG15 to I33
G34 Text "TOTAL DEBITS:-"
I34 If ((col()-7)/2)*#A15+if(val(#A13)=val(#AG2),12,0),0,sum(I18:I33))
Copy I34 to K34; I34:K34 to M34; I34:Q34 to Q34; I34:Q34 to Y34
AH34 sum(I34:AG34)
Copy I15 to AH35
AF36 Text "BALANCE ON"
AG36 A13(9 to )+A13(5 to 8)+A13( to 4)
AH36 AH16-AH34
AH37 Text "=====" (Right justified)
and finally, convert figures in ranges C20:C26 and E20:E26 to integer display format with:-
(F3 U ENTER I ENTER C8:C26 ENTER).
```

#### Note:

The formulae for weekly, fortnightly or 4-weekly debits or credits are:-

Column F:

```
if(val(Bxx)<val(#B2),#B2+"/01/"+str(8-int(((days(#B2+"/01/01")-days(Bxx))/n-int((days(#B2+"/01/01")-days(Bxx))/n))*n+0,1)+100,2,0)(2 to ),Bxx)
```

Column I:

```
if(#A14<days(Fxx),#H4,(int((if(#A14>days(Dxx),days(Dxx),#A14)-days(Fxx))/n)+1)*Gxx)
```

where xx is the row number and n=7,14 or 28 as appropriate.

that, the days corresponding to that date, the number of the month and the day of the month. These values are referred to by the formulae in the 'flag' columns and the column showing the date of the most recent payment.

For monthly payments, the 'flag' column C can have one of three values: 15 (a purely arbitrary value) if the first payment is not due until after the current date; -1 if the day of the month is less than the due date; or zero. The 'flag' in column E has a value of 15 if the current date is after the date of the final payment, 1 if the current month is January and the 'flag' in column C is 1, or zero. The formula in column F then selects one or other of the dates in columns B or D, if the value in either 'flag' column is 15, or else combines the values in them with elements of the current date to arrive at the date of the most recent payment.

By making the flag columns C and E one character wide and blanking zeros, either a hash (#) is displayed or nothing, in the monthly and annual payment sections. In the quarterly and biannual sections, a number up to 3, or 6, or a hash may show.

### Define grid

To start off the spreadsheet after loading Abacus, use the details in **Table one** to define the grid and default settings. Then enter all the text and formulae in **Table two**. The dates you insert in columns B and D can be purely nominal, but there must be dates in them before you enter the relevant formulae or error messages will be generated. Type the formulae exactly as shown, taking care not to omit any brackets, commas, quotes or dollar-signs. Be careful not to confuse numeral 1 with capital letter I. There are a lot of references to cells in column AI (yes, AI) in the formulae, but none to bells in column A, which is only



1	BANK ACCOUNT #12345678 - A.N.V. BODY	For current Balance go to cell AE45																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																								
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used for text. Note that the entry in cell A13 needs special attention because it begins with a quote. If the quote is typed first, Abacus will think that you are entering text, whereas you want to input a formula. The way round that is to miss out the initial quote until you have types

in the rest of the formula; then go back to the beginning (with the UP-arrow) and type the missing quote. If desired, the amounts in the totals cells, and in column G, can be displayed in monetary format (F3 U M ENTER range ENTER).

Next month, we shall look at the formulae needed for payments at intervals other than monthly, and finish the spreadsheet ready for entering some real figures.

1	ACCOUNT #12345678	For current balance, go to cell AExx										DATE CONSTANTS:									
2	ACCOUNT FOR YEAR 1991											YEAR 1992									
3	DATE:- 26/9/91											January									
4		Balance Brought Forward: ----- 200.00										February									
5	STANDING CREDITS											November									
6												December									
7	MONTHLY:-											January									
8												1991/09/2									
9	OTHER CREDITS:-											14928									
10																					
11																					
12																					
13																					
14																					
15																					
16																					
17	STANDING ORDERS & DIRECT DEBITS	1st/Latest																			
18		Start Date: Last Date: Payment: Amount:																			
19	1. MONTHLY:-																				
20		1990/01/01 1995/01/01 1991/09/01 50.00										50.00									
21	2. QUARTERLY:-																				
22		1990/02/01 2 1995/02/01 3 1991/08/01 50.00										50.00									
23	3. BI-ANNUAL:-																				
24		1990/06/01 1995/12/01 1991/06/01 50.00																			
25	4. ANNUAL:-																				
26		1990/01/01 1995/01/01 1991/01/01 50.00										50.00									
27	OTHER DEBITS:-																				
28																					
29																					
30																					
31																					
32																					
33																					
34																					
35																					
36																					
37	Figure 1 - the basic spreadsheet.											BALANCE ON 26/09/1991									
												200.00									





# THE NEW USER GUIDE

SECTION  
**SIXTEEN**

## KEYWORD INDEX

**I** *This month in the Keyword Index, Mike Lloyd discusses the point of IDEC\$ and ends up adding some INPUT.*

**IDEC\$(value, width, decplaces)**

[Super Toolkit 2]

value

width

decplaces

IDEC\$ is one of a group of extremely useful functions which circumvent the QL's habit of converting numbers with relatively few significant digits into exponential format. The function accepts numeric input and produces a fixed-length string of the required number of digits (which may include decimal places).

### DECIMAL NUMBER FORMATTING COMMAND

A decimal value

The total number of character positions to return

The number of decimal places to display

**IF <expr> THEN <statements> (short form)**

**IF <expr>: <statements>(short form)**

**IF <expr> THEN (long form)**

<statements>

**ELSE (optional)**

<statements> (optional)

**END IF**

### CONDITIONAL BRANCHING STRUCTURE

<expr>

<statements>

THEN

any expression which can be assessed as being true or false.

one or more SuperBasic statements.

This keyword is wholly optional in SuperBasic. If a SuperBasic statement shares the same logical line as an IF clause they must be separated by a colon.

All computer languages share two fundamental abilities: the ability to repeat segments of code and the ability to skip segments of code. The latter ability has two types, called conditional and unconditional branching. Unconditional branching is performed by GOTO, GOSUB and the user-defined procedures and functions. Conditional branching, where the direction the program takes depends upon a logical decision, is normally performed by the IF...ENDIF structure (although SuperBasic also has an advanced SELECT structure for multiple decisions).

The IF...ENDIF structure can be broken down into three clauses separated by bodies of SuperBasic statements. The first clause begins with the IF keyword and contains a logical expression which must be evaluated to true or false.

In SuperBasic, logical expressions can include an equals sign, in which case their truth is explicit, or they may have a numerical value, in which case truth is implied if the result is not zero. Expressions can be linked with logical operators such as AND and OR, and they may be reversed by being



preceded by the NOT operator. Examples of logical expressions are:

IF x = 12	True if x = 12
IF NAME\$ = "JIM"	True if NAME\$ equals "JIM"
IF y	True if y is not zero
IF 4 + 2 = 5	True always
IF x = 12 AND y = 4	True if both elements are true
IF x = 12 OR y = 4	True if either element is true
IF NOT x = 12	True if x is not 12

The final part of the IF clause is the optional keyword THEN. THEN can improve the reading of an IF structure because it helps to form an English-like sentence, such as IF x = 12 THEN LET result\$ = "True!". The alternative is to omit it, replacing it with a colon if there is another statement follows on the same program line. In effect, THEN is simply a fancy statement separator, but it can lead people astray. Common assumptions are that only the statement linked directly with the IF clause by THEN is carried out when the IF expression is true, and that ELSE can manage, like THEN, without statement separators.

Having decided upon how program progress will be determined, the next stage is to define those statements which will be carried out only if the IF clause's expression is true. SuperBasic has a long (multiple line) and a short (single line) format for the IF structure. In the short format, statements follow either the THEN keyword or a colon on the same program line as the IF clause. In the long format, the statement following the IF clause must appear on the next program line, otherwise SuperBasic will assume that it is dealing with the short form. With either format, any number of statements can be included.

For many occasions, it is enough only to define those commands which will be carried out when an IF expression is true. However, there will be times when two distinct alternatives present themselves. This can be summarised as "Do this body of code if the expression is true, but do this body of code if the expression is false." In SuperBasic the ELSE keyword permits this sort of logical structure to be developed.

In the short form of the IF statement it is often forgotten that ELSE should be separated from preceding and succeeding statements by colons. It is too easy to follow the false example offered by THEN and omit one or both colons and thus generate an error. In the long form, it is usual to put the ELSE statement on a line to itself. This is entirely optional, but it does make it easier to see the logic of a program. After the ELSE statement any number of SuperBasic statements can be added, all of which will only be carried out should the IF expression equate to false.

Finally, whether or not there is an ELSE clause, the long form of the IF structure must be concluded by an END IF clause. Again, it is usual to place the END IF clause on a line of its own, but SuperBasic will accept one that appears anywhere on a line. In the short form, the end of the logical line serves as an END IF, but one can still be added if desired.

IF structures can be nested, in order to cope with a complex set of related decisions such as "IF the user's ID and password are correct THEN IF it is Friday remind them to back up the floppy disks, ELSE end the program." Even in English, this algorithm is slightly ambiguous, although most people would infer that the ELSE clause would only be carried out if the first IF clause were untrue, otherwise nobody could enter the system except on a Friday. The QL cannot infer any such thing and relies on the proper use of the ENDIF and ELSE clauses to determine exactly what is meant. In a program, the above might be rendered as:

```
500 IF ID$ == "John" OR ID$ == "Jill" AND PASSWORD$ = "letmein"
510 IF DAY$ == "Friday"
520 PRINT "Remember your backups"
530 ENDIF
540 ELSE
550 PRINT "You are not allowed in"
560 STOP
570 ENDIF
```

## IMPLICIT\$ var1, var2, var3...

[Turbo Toolkit]

## IMPLICIT% var1, var2, var3...

[Turbo Toolkit]

	COMPILER DIRECTIVE
varXa	variable name

The SELECT structure is a useful way of offering many courses of action for the computer to select, but it only works with decimal numbers. It is therefore not possible to write the following code:

```
100 SElect ON name$
110 = "John": PRINT "OK to proceed"
120 = "Jill": PRINT "OK to proceed"
130 = REMAINDER: PRINT "Go away."
140 END SElect
```



This restriction was not good enough for the developers of the Turbo compiler, but the absolutes of the SuperBasic interpreter's syntax seemed to offer no room for a solution. That is, until the IMPLICIT directive was thought up. This keyword is ignored in interpreted SuperBasic programs, but in a compiled program all of the variable names contained in IMPLICIT statements take on the attributes of variables ending with the character which ends the IMPLICIT keyword. IMPLICIT\$ variables become strings and IMPLICIT% variables become integers even though they do not end with the appropriate suffix. In this way the Turbo team managed to allow SElect to work with strings. The above example needs to be altered only slightly, as follows:

```
90 IMPLICIT$ name
100 SElect ON name
```

Programmers with experience only of Basic dialects will at first experience some insecurity when confronted by variables whose class cannot be determined by their names, but others used to languages such as C will probably prefer firstly using suffix-less variable names and secondly enduring the discipline of declaring every variable they use.

## INK #chan, main, sub, pattern

#chan  
main  
sub  
pattern

### CHARACTER AND GRAPHICS COMMAND

(optional) channel number  
an integer between 0 and 255  
(optional) an integer between 0 and 7  
(optional) an integer between 0 and 3

Stipples		Green	Red	Blue	Green	Red	Blue	Colour Byte
7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0	Bits
0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	Black
0 1	0 0	0 1	0 0	0 0	0 1	0 0	0 1	Blue
1 0	0 1	0 0	0 1	0 0	0 1	0 0	0 1	Red
1 1	0 1	0 1	0 1	0 1	0 1	0 1	0 1	Magenta
1 0	1 0	1 0	1 0	1 0	1 0	1 0	1 0	Green
1 0	1 1	1 0	1 1	1 0	1 1	1 0	1 1	Cyan
1 1	1 0	1 1	1 0	1 1	1 0	1 1	1 0	Yellow
1 1	1 1	1 1	1 1	1 1	1 1	1 1	1 1	White

2nd Colour 1st Colour

Sinclair QL World

All character and graphics output to the screen can be coloured, even though on a monochrome monitor the result might only be variations on a theme of grey. Two commands which control screen colours are PAPER and INK, affecting the background and foreground colours respectively. Note that although graphics output responds to INK changes the BLOCK command, which is more closely related to the WINDOW command, has its own colour parameter. The INK command's affect on foreground colours is limited by the current screen mode. Mode4 allows only four colours (black, white, red and green) while mode8 allows four more (cyan, blue, yellow and magenta). However, references to the extended colour set when the screen is in Mode4 does not generate an error message. The QL simply picks the nearest valid colour instead.

The QL has an unusual way of handling colour in its screen map which is reflected in the way in which the INK parameters work. (The screen map structure is dealt with later in the *New User Guide*). Foreground colours can be solid or one of four stipple patterns, and can be represented by a single integer value between 0 and 255. See the accompanying panel for a bit-by-bit explanation of how Qdos interprets colour values.

SuperBasic allows a single one-byte value to represent all of the characteristics of a foreground colour, but programmers find it much easier to declare stipples with three parameters. The first parameter decides the primary colour. If the parameter lies within the range 0 to 7 and there are no other parameters, a solid ink of the required colour is provided. The second parameter determines the alternate colour. With two parameters in the INK statement the QL assumes that a stipple is required and defaults to a checkerboard pattern. Alternatively, a third parameter between 0 and 2 causes other stipple patterns to be adopted (a value of 3 causes the checkerboard pattern to be selected).

On monitor displays, stipples can produce pleasing colour combinations such as pale green (white and green) and vivid pink (magenta and red). The default pattern is best at disguising the fact that the



colour is not solid. Interesting horizontal and vertical stripes can be achieved with stipples 1 and 2, while more subtle shadings, or a contrasting polka dot effect, can be achieved with stipple 0. With a TV display the results are more than likely to cause unpleasant strobing.

INK stipples tend to make characters difficult to read, being more suited to blocks of colour such as a FILLED circle. The grainy effect of stippled characters can be exploited when asking for a password to be entered: the user can see that something has been printed on the screen, but a casual observer would find it difficult to read exactly what had been typed.

## INKEY\$(#chan, frames)

### CHANNEL INPUT FUNCTION

#chan (optional) a valid channel number.  
frames (optional) a timeout measured in screen refreshes (50 per second).

The INKEY\$ function obtains input character by character from the given channel, which by default is the special Channel #0, the user's keyboard, but which could also be a file. This is in contrast with INPUT, which obtains chunks of data before a linefeed (or the use of the ENTER key) is encountered, and READ, which obtains information only from DATA statements, and KEYROW, which is a low-level keyboard reading function. INKEY\$ always returns a character value.

With no parameters whatever, INKEY\$ returns the keystroke character pressed at the precise instant that the interpreter met the function call. Sometimes this is useful, particularly in games, but it is often more convenient to wait either for a set period of time or forever until a key is pressed. With a single, positive integer parameter INKEY\$ will wait that many screen refreshes before giving up hope of a keypress arriving. In the UK, screen refreshes are carried out 50 times a second (where electricity is supplied at 60 Hz the refresh time increases to 60 times a second), so a value of 200 implies a two-second wait. If -1 is specified the program will wait forever for the next keypress.

INKEY\$ improves on INPUT where only a single character is required. INPUT insists on a minimum of two keypresses, because ENTER must be pressed, but INKEY\$ can respond to just one, as in the following example:

```
200 PRINT "Do you want to do this? (Y/N)"
210 IF INKEY$(-1) == "Y"
220 REMark Do it...
230 END IF
```

INKEY\$ will also take input character by character from a given channel, provided that a valid channel identifier is provided. Again, the timeout can come in useful where the channel might be a pipe from another program or be attached to the network. For disk or microdrive access, no timeout is required.

## INPUT #chan, prompt1\$, var1, prompt2\$, var2, ...

## INPUT #chan, var1, var2, ...

### CHANNEL INPUT COMMAND

#chan (optional) a valid channel number  
promptX\$ (optional) a text string or text variable. Many prompts can be included in an input string.  
var1, var2,... (optional) string or numeric variables.  
Note: the INPUT command permits commas to be replaced by other text separators such as ! \ TO and ;

The INPUT command is at once one of the most useful Basic facilities and one of its crudest. One of the easiest ways of ensuring that a program grinds to an unexpected halt is to include an INPUT command which expects a numeric input: the operator only has to press a character by mistake and an error is generated. That apart, SuperBasic's implementation of INPUT has several nice features.

INPUT assigns a value to a variable, rather like a LET command. The value does not come from within the program but from an external source such as the keyboard or a file opened on a microdrive cartridge. All input is accepted until the ENTER key is pressed or until a linefeed is detected in a file. A single INPUT statement can assign values to several variables.

The INPUT command is most frequently used to read keyboard input. Without a channel number, the input is displayed in the default window at the flashing cursor. INPUT can be directed to any other window provided it has been defined as a console rather than as a screen (use OPEN#3, con\_, not OPEN#3, scr\_). All of the windows opened when the QL is booted are consoles, not screens.

Input can be preceded by a prompt to advise the user on what is expected, along the lines of INPUT "Enter your name", name\$. The separator has the same value as in a PRINT statement, so a comma forces a tab between the end of the prompt and the point at which input is accepted. The interpreter does not care how many prompts there are or where they appear in the INPUT statement. Neither does INPUT care how many variables the programmer provides; without any at all it resembles a simple PRINT statement.

When INPUT is used in conjunction with a file opened for input its syntax becomes tighter. Prompt strings are meaningless and are ignored. Variables must be separated by commas. If there is no input to be obtained from the file an End of File error message is generated.

With either use, the accidental assignment of a string value to a numeric variable causes the program to halt. For this reason, the Turbo Toolkit EDIT family of functions is usually preferred for keyboard input.



# QL SCENE

## UPDATE FROM DIGITAL PRECISION

Digital Precision has presented updated versions of a number of its programs, great and small. Perhaps of the most interest to many users will be the *Lightning Special Edition - Gold Card version*. The important feature of this version is that it costs less, as it does not require the rom normally supplied. The price is £39.95, or as a £25 upgrade from *standard* Lightning. Gold Card owners who already have the Special Edition rom can return the rom cartridge to Digital Precision for a £5 credit towards future orders.

*Professional Publisher part two* now has even more fonts ('the best high definition fonts yet') and utilities: extract screen from anywhere within the page; compress page; convert alien fonts. Part two costs £29.95 alone; £49.95 the pair.

Also for ProPub, the *Laserjet/Deskjet/Inkjet driver* for HP printers gives superb output quality for £19.95.

*QMaths part two* contains optimally speeded Mandelbrot and Julia set visuals; enhanced statistical functions; terrain plotting; function evaluation, and more. Part two costs £59.95, or £99.95 with part one as well.

For DOS users, *Digital Research (DR) Dos 6.0* is now available, with many features advanced on DOS 5.00, including automatic disk compression on Write and decompression on Read, from 2x to 8x depending on the file, giving great storage space saving. There is also an on-line DOS reference guide. Many DOS users prefer DR-DOS to MS-DOS. Two manuals, a ready reference guide and a preconfigured ready-to-run QL/DR-DOS 6.0 disk is included in the price of £80, or £70 to listed customers who have purchased a previous DOS from Digital Precision. (DP notes that this is not a 'return-to-upgrade' arrangement - you keep your old DOS and get £5 off the new one as well.)

Certain combined prices are available if two packages are ordered at the same time: £179.97 for DR-DOS and *PC Conqueror Gold Special Edition*; £139.95 for DR-DOS and standard *Conqueror*; £109.95 for DR-DOS and *Solution*.

Orders and enquiries to **Digital Precision Ltd., 222 The Avenue, Chingford, London E4 9SE. Tel. 081 527 5493.**

## Quanta workshop, Bristol

**Henry Orlowski**

One of the country's best Quanta workshops took place on 25/26 April at the Walton Park Hotel, a fine but unimposing building overlooking the sea in Clevedon, Avon. The meeting attracted a good bunch of enthusiasts from far and wide, despite relatively low-key publicity, a testimony to the reputation for quality and excellent organisation achieved by the Bristol QL User Group.

It's the prospect of meeting like-minded people, getting updates on the latest news and products, and the chance to spend some money that brings people to meetings like this.

Who was there? Digital Precision (with Freddy holding court), Miracle Systems, Dilwyn Jones Computing, CGH Services, Jochen Merz (all the way from Germany), EEC, TF Services and, of course, Quanta themselves. These 'big boys' were selling wares in good volume, especially the hardware suppliers like Miracle with their super Gold Card, and EEC with hard disks and interfaces. The Gold Card was reduced from £35 to a bargain £225 - worth having.

The 'small boys' were there too. Adman Services had all their usual goodies and free advice, and Ron Dunnnett (Qubbesoft) with his new public domain disk including a ZX81 emulator! No stick-on 16K expansions, though, thankfully.

One of the simplest yet most effective gizmos I saw was the Rom Switcher sold by QLAs. This switches between the Minerva rom and a JS (or JM), so that if you have programs that won't run under Minerva, and you don't want to incorporate the patch, you can switch back to your unenhanced rom. This is £25 from QLAs.

No QL meeting would be complete without screwdrivers and soldering irons. Beginners were having problems sorted out by experts; there were on-the-spot repairs, ship changes and refits going on. There were QLs that didn't look like QLs, and four-foot-long QLs with miles of spaghetti cabling. These are the idiosyncrasies that make the machine the enthusiast's dream that it is.

When you've got all your upgrades and no longer need the old stuff, take it to the 'bring and buy' stall, where Mike and Mike will do their best to sell it for you. If you're starting on the first rung, this is the place to get your bargains: complete QL systems with expansion, disks, monitor and software for under £200, if you're lucky.

And finally, for those who like a different kind of excitement, Quanta held their AGM on the second day, and quite a rousing affair it was, too.

## Help needed with file conversion!

Would anyone with experience in converting QL-originated documents and listings for PC-compatible or Apple Mac systems please turn to the Editor's Notebook on page 14! - We are looking for advice.



# ARCHIVE

## A = N + S - W = E + R - S

Robin Stevenson

describes how to use  
your QL as a direct  
typewriter under full  
position-control  
from Archive.

This month's Archive Answer is a bit of an oddball as database applications go. In fact it isn't a database application at all. It is a mini application in its own right, more along word-processor lines.

One of the things a word processor is not too good at is fitting text onto a page which is already laid out. Often, it would be nice to use your printer to fill in an application form, or just add some more text to a page you have already printed. If you have ever tried doing this, guessing where the boxes or spaces would occur, you will know the chance of success is low. By comparison, an old typewriter could do the job tolerably well, because you can line up the paper and then type it in directly.

Well, we are not going to let a steam-powered lump of metal get one up on electronic wizardry. Anything it can do, the QL can do better, and here it is - the program to control your printer directly. You can position the paper and print head, type in text (with full editing facility); you can control underlining, emboldening, etc., and can even send printer escape codes if required.

### Advantage

The advantage of using Archive instead of SuperBasic is the access to the Psior printer driver. Since every printer is different, and you have already customised

```
proc start
let UNDER=0: let BOLD=0: let HIGH=0: let LOW=0
let FLUSH$=" "+chr(0)+chr(8) : rem SET PRINTER SPECIFIC VARIABLES
let LINEUP$=chr(0)+chr(27)+"j"+chr(0)+chr(30)
let BACKSPACE$=chr(0)+chr(8)
let GOTOLEFT$=chr(0)+chr(13) : rem PROVIDED AUTO-LF IS NOT ON
Type : rem LAUNCH THE MAIN PROCEDURE
endproc
```

```
proc Heading;Text$
if not UNDER: print chr(5):: endif
print ink 6;chr(15);chr(27)+"c";chr(30);Text$; tab 67;chr(250);
print " B"(BOLD+1); " U"(UNDER+1); " H"(HIGH+1); " L"(LOW+1);
print chr(27)+"D"+chr(14); ink 5+BOLD;
if not UNDER: print chr(5):: endif : rem TURN UNDERLINE OFF AGAIN
endproc
```

```
proc PrintTab;OldPos,NewPos
if NewPos>OldPos : rem REPLACEMENT FOR LPRINT TAB
lprint rept(" ",NewPos-OldPos);
endif
endproc
```

```
proc GetLine
Heading;"Type the required text, and press enter."
input TEXT$; : rem STANDARD TEXT INPUT
endproc
```

```
proc AsciiCodes
local Ascii$: let TEXT$="z": let Ascii$=""
print chr(27)+"C"; at 0,0; : rem STORE CURRENT SCREEN CURSOR POS
while TEXT$<>" " : rem LOOP TO GET SEVERAL ASCII CODES
print "Enter ASCII codes (end with blank) "; tab 67;
input at 0,40;TEXT$
if val(TEXT$): let Ascii$=Ascii$+chr(0)+chr(val(TEXT$)): endif
endwhile
lprint Ascii$;: print chr(27)+"D"; : rem PRINT CODES, RETURN CURSOR
endproc
```

```
proc LookUp
local Key$ : rem SCROLLS PAPER UP FOR INSPECTION, AND RETURNS IT
lprint : lprint : lprint : lprint
Heading;"LOOK AT PRINT: press any key to continue"
let Key$=getkey()
lprint LINEUP$;LINEUP$;LINEUP$;LINEUP$;LINEUP$;
endproc
```

```
proc TypeFace
Heading;"TYPEFACE : [B]old [U]nderline [H]igh [L]ow on/off"
local C$: let C$=upper(getkey())
if C$="B": lprint chr(15);: let BOLD=BOLD=0: ink 5+BOLD: endif
if C$="U": print chr(5):: lprint chr(16);: let UNDER=UNDER=0: endif
if C$="L": let LOW=LOW=0: lprint chr(17);: endif
if C$="H": let HIGH=HIGH=0: lprint chr(18);: endif
endproc
```



your printer driver to suit yours, that is one of the major programming headaches deal with completely.

Well, almost completely. To give full paper control, it is necessary to add a few printer commands not covered by the printer driver. In particular, it uses backspace reverse paper feed, carriage to left; and printer buffer flush. In all these cases, you may have to consult your printer manual if you wish to use them.

The issue of buffer flushing in particular could give a problem. Some printers don't print every letter as it arrives, but store them in a memory buffer until a completed line has been received. If this is the case you must find a way of fooling the printer into sending these characters, so that the print head physically moves into place. One such way (as shown in the listing) is to send a space followed by a backspace. If that doesn't work you may need to hunt around the manual for an alternative.

## Variables

All the printer-specific bits are entered as variable in proc Start. As listed, they should work with an Epson LQ emulation. Juki 6100 users should replace these with the alternative Start procedure shown in listing 2. Other printers may require something different again. Laser users are no-hopers on this particular application. The paper can not be seen or controlled in the same way. "Serves them right for having such a fancy kit," did I hear someone mutter?

The rest of the program is in listing one. There is no need to type in the remarks on the right hand side. These help explain what is going on, but fill up useful memory. Once you have entered, and saved it, you can try it out. All the key-strokes are echoed both on the screen, and on the printer as you type them. The four cursor keys should move the print head/paper as required; while the return key will send a new-line and return the print head to the left.

## Tab Key

The tab key moves the head to the point you last entered some text, or if already beyond this, moves it a further eight places. Shift+Tab will home the cursor back to the left again and clear the tab setting. Shift+Down will give a FormFeed instruction. Shift+Up is the 'lookup' feature. It scrolls the paper round five lines, and waits for a key-press before scrolling it back again. This gives a handy way of checking you are typing in the right place, but should not be used near the bottom of a page.

The remaining functions are accessed by the function keys. F3 allows you to send Ascii codes to the printer. You enter each code number, in decimal, and finish with a blank entry. Only when you finish are the codes sent, as a single string. These

```
proc Type
  local Pos,Left,H$,Control,Old: let Pos=0: let Left=0
  mode 0,8: print chr(20)+chr(4)+chr(2)+chr(77)+chr(23)
  let H$=chr(190)+chr(191)+chr(188)+chr(189)+" F5=text F4=type"
  let H$=H$+" F3=code SH +Dn=FF +Up=look +Tab=left ESC=quit"
  spooloff : let Control=60
  while Control<>27 : rem MAIN LOOP, FOR SUCCESSIVE INSTRUCTIONS
    let control=60:Heading:H$
    while Control>31: let Control=code(upper(getkey())): endwhile
    if Control=2: print chr(11):: lprint LINEUP$:: endif : rem 2=UP
    if Control=3: print chr(10):: lprint :PrinTab;0,Pos: endif
    if Control=4: print " ": lprint " ":FLUSH$: : rem 3=DOWN
    let Pos=Pos+1: endif : rem 4=LEFT
    if Control=5 and Pos: print chr(8):: lprint BACKSPACES$:FLUSH$: : rem 5=RIGHT
    let Pos=Pos-1: endif : rem 30=ENTER
    if Control=30: print : lprint : let Pos=0: endif : rem 29=TAB
    if Control=29: let Old=Pos
    if Pos<Left: let Pos=Left
    else : let Pos=Pos+8: endif
    print tab Pos::PrinTab;Old,Pos: endif
    if Control=28: print chr(13):: lprint GOTOLEFT$:FLUSH$:
    let Pos=0: let Left=0: endif : rem SH+TAB
    if Control=11: cls : print : lprint chr(12):: endif : rem SH+DOWN
    if Control=10:LookUp:PrinTab;0,Pos: endif : rem SH+UP
    if control=20:AsciiCodes: endif : rem 20 = F3
    if Control=21:TypeFace: endif : rem 21 = F4
    if Control=22: error GetLine: let Left=Pos: lprint TEXT$:FLUSH$:
    let Pos=Pos+len(TEXT$): endif : rem 22 = F5
  endwhile : mode 1,8
endproc
```

```
proc start
  let UNDER=0: let BOLD=0: let HIGH=0: let LOW=0
  let FLUSH$="" : rem NO PRINT BUFFERING ON A JUKI
  let LINEUP$=chr(0)+chr(27)+"D"+chr(0)+chr(27)+"D"
  let BACKSPACES$=chr(0)+chr(8)
  let GOTOLEFT$=chr(0)+chr(27)+chr(0)+chr(9)+chr(0)+chr(1)
  Type : rem LAUNCH THE MAIN PROCEDURE
endproc
```

codes bypass the normal printer driver processing, so what you enter is what the printer will receive.

The F4 key gives you control over underling, bold, high and low script. As in Quill, you simply type the initial to turn it on and off. While a feature is on, its initial appears on the top right corner of the prompts line.

Finally, for all text entry, you press F5. You can then type in and edit some text. It will only be sent to the printer when you press return. Note that in this case pressing return does not give a new line, as you may wish to add more further along. A second return is needed, after you have finished entering text, to give a new line.

The system is designed for flexibility and control, rather than smooth efficiency. You could type a whole book using it, but I wouldn't recommend it. A few lines on a printed form are much more its natural

home. One useful technique for accurate positioning is to enter a single full-stop as a test. Using the lookup feature you can then see if it is in the right place, and adjust the position accordingly before typing in the text itself.

## Key Presses

If you are looking to extend the program yourself, one handy feature may be to send key-presses to a file, as well as to screen and printer. You could then use this to print out multiple copies, all correctly positioned on the form. With a bit of effort, you could even allow specific details to be typed at run time as well as standard text to be used every time. This would lift it onto another plane of functionality, but also of complexity. I have kept this listing short and simple, so it shouldn't be too daunting either to type in, or to understand.



# SOFTWARE FILE

## INFORMATION

**Program:** Rock-Fall  
**Publisher:** CGH Services,  
 Cwm Gwen Hall,  
 Pencader, Dyfed,  
 Cymru SA39 9HA  
**Price:** £10 (Disk or mdv)  
**Memory:** 128K

# ROCKFALL

Rich Mellor  
 gathers moss  
 in a Boulder-  
 Dash style  
 game from  
 CGH Services.

Many games players will recognise the theme behind this game if I say that it has been based upon *Boulderdash*. For those of you who have not heard of this game (which has almost become a genre in itself), you guide a little man around various screens collecting diamonds. The only problem is that between you and the diamonds is a load of earth which supports huge boulders. As you dig away at the earth (by moving your man across it), the boulders can become dislodged, causing a cascade of rocks and diamonds down onto your head and killing you, or blocking your path.

Rockfall is a very colourful variation on this theme and, together with falling rocks, you must also avoid two types of monsters who will chase you around the screen where the earth has been cleared away, and even walls which can grow across your only escape route. Monsters can be killed by dropping rocks on them, and thankfully, when they die, they will explode and (if you are lucky) take some of the walls with them.

## Sixteen

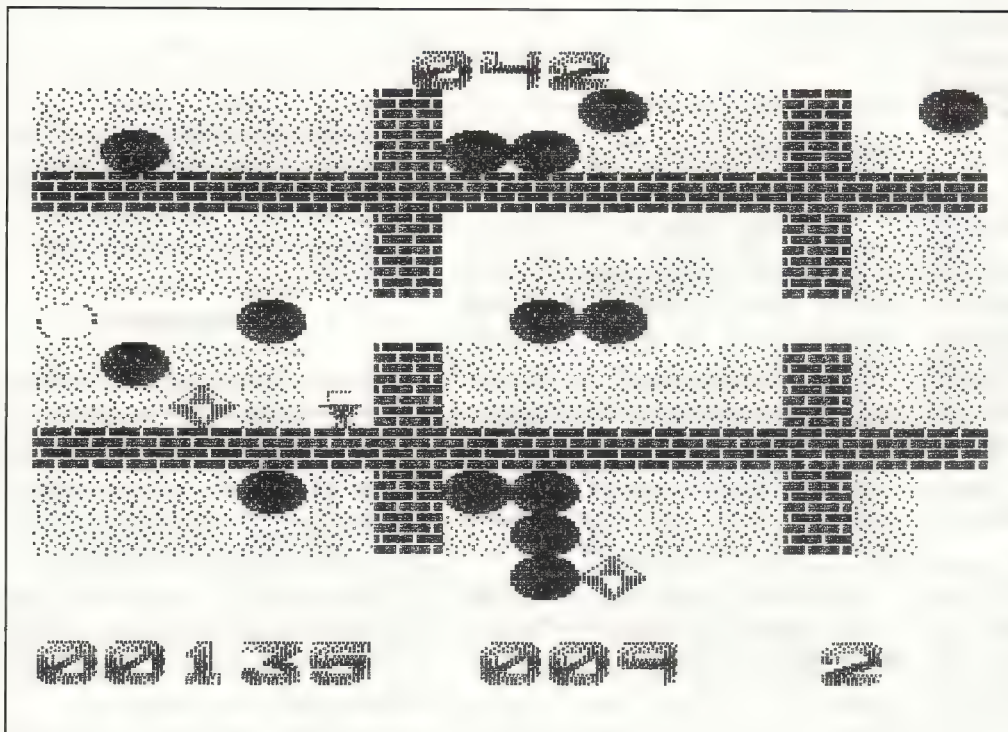
There are a total of sixteen levels, although you can choose to begin your game on four of these, which will enable you to

practise the more difficult sections. Each level is actually about four times the size of the QL screen, and as you move around more and more of the level is displayed. I am not however quite certain whether the lower levels are supposed to be easier, since I have only been able to complete two levels (level one and level nine - both of which are levels you can elect to start on).

In order to complete each level, you will need to collect a certain number of diamonds (the number of diamonds remaining to be collected is shown at the bottom of the screen). Luckily, you should not need to collect all of the diamonds on each screen and therefore early mistakes do not always ruin your chances of progressing to the next level. Also, in view of the fact that your attention will be more directed to the playing area rather than the bottom of the screen, there is an audible warning as well as a bar which is drawn across the top of the screen when you have collected enough diamonds. You may then proceed to the exit (which may not appear until enough diamonds have been collected) to enter the next level.

## Amoeba

Some of the levels involve much more thought than others. For example, some of the levels incorporate what is described in the manual as a growing Amoeba. In order to complete these levels, you need to block the Amoeba's





growth by careful placement of the boulders. When it has finished growing, the Amoeba will change into the diamonds which you need to collect in order to complete the level. Now, this does require quite some thought when you need to stop an Amoeba that starts grows downwards, when all of the displaced boulders can only fall down!

Sound is quite limited in the game (no fancy background music here), and can be turned off by pressing the 'V' key. You guide your little man around the screen with the cursor keys, and can even dig ahead of yourself by pressing the Space key at the same time as a cursor key. I would however have preferred to be able to re-define the playing keys so that I could play the game more easily on my full-sized keyboard.

## Slug command

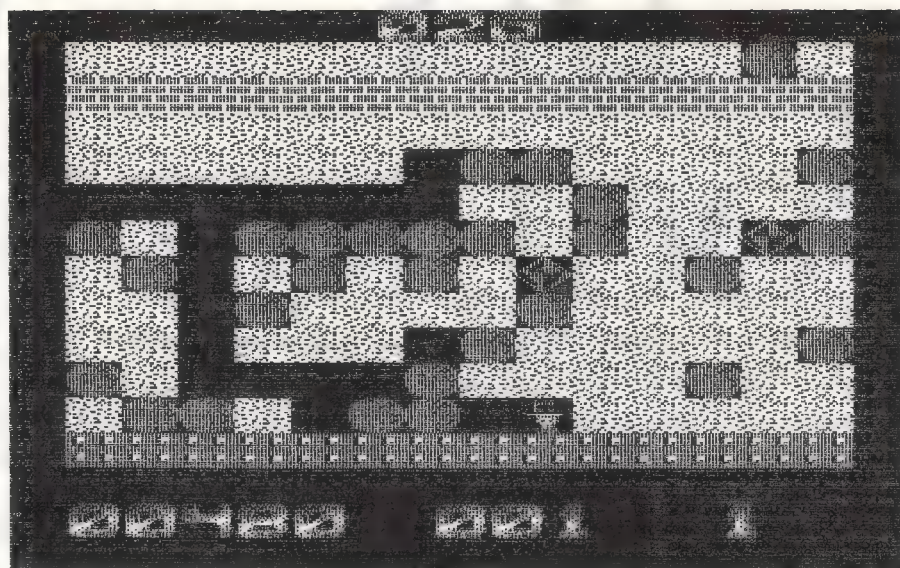
On a standard QL the game goes along at a medium pace, giving you plenty of time to think. However, Gold Card users may need to use quite a large value with the SLUG command (supplied on later

Gold Card roms) in order to make the game playable. (*Do you remember when everyone complained that games were too slow?*)

The game comes with a small manual, which is adequate, but

I believe that there will soon be incorporated into the program a screen giving an explanation of the symbols used by the game. As a whole, the game is well designed and plays very well. It is colourful and con-

tains enough items of interest to keep younger players amused as well as older QL users. This certainly represents excellent value for money.



## Sinclair QL

### STOP PRESS

All prices include 17.5% VAT

#### Falkenberg Hard Disk Drives

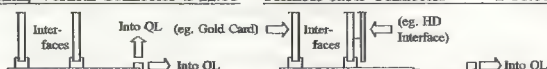
	Hard Disk Kit	Complete Set, boxed with PSU
32MB Hard Disk	£300	£365
20MB Hard Disk	£258	£322

The Hard Disk Kit comes without Box and PSU. If used with a gold card and bus expander the access time is greatly improved. (On a QL with Gold Card, approx 350,000 Kilobytes/second)

The QL Hard Disk Interface and Hard Disk controller boards can be mounted in various configurations as required. The following items are normally carried in stock and can be selected as required.

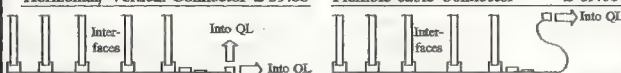
#### BUS Expander, 2 slots, (eg. for disk interface/gold card and hard disk controller)

Horizontal/ Vertical Connector	£ 22.00	Flexible cable Connector	£ 30.00
--------------------------------	---------	--------------------------	---------



#### BUFFERED BUS Expander, 5 slots, (For expansion other than Trump/Gold Card)

Horizontal/ Vertical Connector	£ 59.00	Flexible cable Connector	£ 69.00
--------------------------------	---------	--------------------------	---------



BUS Redirector, 1 slot, helps to reduce the width of extended QLs £ 17.00

RAM/ROM Battery Backed Memory Card (Ram to 896K, Eprom to 256K) From £ 79.00

For Option Details on any product send S.A.E.

#### Serial 3 Button Mouse Remote Infra Red Mouse

£45  
£55



Externally fitted into SER2, comes complete with interface and software. No internal fitting required, 3 button mouse gives 5 more functions than the QIMI.

NB. We still have lots of QLs, 1 & 2 Mb disk drives, peripherals and components. See previous adverts or contact us for details.

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FAX: 0753 887149



## TF Services

### MINERVA

The ULTIMATE operating system upgrade

MI11 MINERVA now with battery for 256 bytes ram, CRASHPROOF clock & interface (I/O) for robots etc. Can autoboot from battery ram.

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# DIY TOOLKIT

Simon Goodwin looks through 'windows' for the QL and remedies some Qdos display problems he sees there.

## Listing One

```
* Sinclair QL World DIY TOOLKIT - WINDOWS for QDOS
* Version 1.2, Copyright 1992 Simon N Goodwin
*
start      lea.l      define,a1      Point at names & addresses
           movea.w    $110.w,a2      Read the BP.INIT vector
           jmp        (a2)           Link SuperBasic extensions
*
* base_address = W_CRUNCH ( #ch% , flag% [0=All 2=Red 4=Green] )
*
crunch     bsr        get_channel    Pick up channel number
           subq.w     #2,d3          Check parameter count
           bne        bad_param2    Two are expected
           move.w     2(a1,a6.l),d6  Pick up compression flag
           addq.l     #2,$58(a6)     Tidy RI stack pointer
           bra.s      save_window
*
* base_address = W_STORE ( #ch% )
*
store      bsr        get_channel    Pick up channel number
           subq.w     #1,d3          Check parameter count
           bne        bad_param2    Only one is expected
           moveq      #0,d6          Flag for no compression
*
save_window bsr        find_window   Put details in registers
           move.w     d0,d7          Save width for later use
           moveq      #-1,d2         RAM owner is this task
           moveq      #24,d0         MT.ALCHP trap key
           trap       #1             Allocate Common Heap RAM
           tst.l      d0             Did that work?
           bne.s      exit           Return error code
*
           move.l     a0,d1          Preserve address of RAM
           move.w     d7,d0          Retrieve line word count
           move.l     #'Bufa',-4(a0) Store flag for DISCARD
           move.l     224(a6),(a0)+  Point on to the next ALCHP
           move.l     d1,224(a6)     Extend the ALCHP list
*
           move.l     d5,(a0)+       Record total space used
           move.w     d4,(a0)+       Record line count
           move.w     d6,(a0)+       Record compression flag
*
* A4 -> First video word, A0 -> Buffer for screen information
* D4.W is count of pixel lines-1, D0.W is line width in words-1
*
           subq.w     #2,d6          Check the CRUNCH flag
           bmi.s      save_lines     If <2, store both bytes
           bne.s      crunch_line   >2, store green bytes only
           addq.l     #1,a4          Point at first red byte
crunch_line lea.l     save_bytes,a3  Point at byte saver
           bra.s      save_it
save_lines lea.l     save_words,a3  Point at word saver
save_it    bsr        scan_lines    Call (A3) for each line
*
* RETURN_FP stacks D1.L in SuperBasic floating-point form
*
return_fp  move.w     d1,d4          D4 will be exponent
           move.l     d1,d5          D5 will be mantissa
           beq.s      normal        A most unlikely case!
           move.w     #2079,d4       First guess at exponent
           add.l      d1,d1          Already normalised?
```

There has been much fuss in recent years about the rise of 'Windows' for computing applications; noisiest of all are the proponents of 'Microsoft Windows' for IBM micros and clones. That package bolsters the MS-DOS system with fashionable windows and icons, plus multi-tasking (programs and megabytes permitting) and device sharing - as long as the programmers resisted the temptation to write directly to the PC hardware.

It took them a while, but PC users are at least learning what QL owners have known for years - it is convenient and natural to run several programs at once, swapping between them at will. Microsoft Windows is slow and bulky, but that's great news for clonesters pushing their latest hardware expansion.

Alas, many good PC programs refuse to multi-task, because they were written for single-user systems and cannot share resources. Contrast this with QL tasks, which are concise and compatible, and it's easy to conclude that Qdos is still years ahead of the PC, especially if the 68008 is supplanted by one of the faster Motorola processors.

The QL has had multitasking and 'windows' from the start, unlike the PC, but the Qdos rom lacks facilities to save and restore the contents of displayed windows, so overlaps may disturb other displays.

The latest *DIY Toolkit* project remedies this lack, and adds a handful of new display routines to move, highlight, compress and re-colour QL windows. As ever, the code is concise, speedy and easy to use, on all Qdos systems; I have tested it on Minerva, Sinclair roms, and version 3.10 of the excellent Amiga Qdos emulator.

QL windowing systems are not new; they are components of *Qram*, *Qpac2*, and packages such as *Turbo Toolkit*. The DIY facilities build on their predecessors, packing twelve useful operations into just 676 bytes of machine code. They automatically pick up the window size and position from the channel definition, and work with Minerva's two screens - or even more, as I shall explain next month.

My code includes a neat facility to reclaim the memory used for stored screens when you load a new Basic program. Screens stored by conventional windowing packages can gobble over 32K of memory each, so the DIY keywords allow fast, reliable compression options that halve the space required. You can also manipulate stored windows with popular commands from Toolkit 2, Turbo Toolkit and DIY Toolkit. The Qdos RECOL command is flexible but rather sluggish, taking several seconds to recolour a large window. When many windows are in use it is convenient to have a quick way to highlight any particular one, so DIY Windows boasts a range of new re-colouring options, optimised for Mode4 displays



```

        bvs.s      normal
        subq.w     #1,d4
        move.l     d1,d5
        moveq      #16,d0
normalise  move.l     d5,d1
        asl.l      d0,d1
        bvs.s      too_far
        sub.w      d0,d4
        move.l     d1,d5
too_far   asr.w     #1,d0
        bne.s      normalise
        Try shift of 8, 4, 2 and 1

*
* Check there's six bytes of space for the result
*
normal    moveq     #6,d1      Number of bytes needed
        movea.w     $11A.w,a0  BV.CHRIX vector
        jsr         (a0)
        movea.l     $58(a6),a1  Get a safe A1 value
        subq.l      #6,a1
        move.l      a1,$58(a6)  Grab 6 more bytes
        move.l      d5,2(a1,a6.l) Stack mantissa
        move.w      d4,0(a1,a6.l) Stack exponent
        moveq       #2,d4      Floating point result
        moveq       #0,d0
exit      rts

*
* GET_CHANNEL - evaluates integer channel number parameter
* Returns ID in A0 or returns error code to 4(A7)
*
get_channel movea.w    $112.w,a2  CA.GTINT - get integers
        jsr         (a2)
        bne.s       quick_exit  Return D0 error code
        move.w      0(a1,a6.l),d7 Pick up the channel #
        bmi.s       bad_param   It should be positive
        addq.l      #2,$58(a6)  Update BV.RIP
default   mulu       #40,d7      Find offset in table
        add.l      48(a6),d7     Add base to offset
        cmp.l      52(a6),d7     Check not beyond end
        bge.s      chan_error   Number is too high
        move.l     0(a6,d7.l),d7 ID for output window
        bmi.s      chan_error   Channel is closed
chan_open movea.l     d7,a0      Set up Channel ID
        rts

*
* W_SWAP #ch% - exchanges red & green display bytes
*
swap      bsr.s      get_channel  Read channel number
        subq.w     #1,d3         Check parameter count
        bne       bad_param2     Only one is expected
        bsr.s      find_window
        lea.l      swap_words,a3

*
scan_lines lea.l      128(a4),a2  Point at the next line
        move.w     d0,d2         Duplicate width for loop
        jsr        (a3)         Call chosen line scanner
        movea.l    a2,a4
        dbra       d4,scan_lines Process all the lines
        moveq      #0,d0        It worked!
        rts

*
* This listing will be concluded in my August DIY Toolkit column

```

### Listing Two

```

100 REMark Sinclair QL World HEX LOADER v 3
110 REMark by Marcus Jeffery & Simon N Goodwin
120 :
150 CLS: RESTORE : READ space: start=RESPR(space)
160 PRINT "Loading Hex..." : HEX_LOAD start
170 INPUT "Save to file...";f$
180 SBYTES f$,start,byte : STOP
190 :
200 DEFine FuNction DECIMAL(x)
210 RETURN CODE(h$(x))-48-7*(h$(x)>"9")
220 END DEFine DECIMAL
230 :
240 DEFine PROCEDURE HEX_LOAD(start)
290 byte = 0 : checksum = 0
300 REPEAT load_hex_digits
310 READ h$
320 IF h$="*" : EXIT load_hex_digits
330 IF LEN(h$) MOD 2
340 PRINT"Odd number of hex digits in: ";h$
350 STOP
360 END IF
370 FOR b = 1 TO LEN(h$) STEP 2
380 hb = DECIMAL(h$(b)) : lb = DECIMAL(h$(b+1))
390 IF hb<0 OR hb>15 OR lb<0 OR lb>15
400 PRINT"Illegal hex digit in: ";h$ : STOP
420 END IF

```

and about ten times faster than RECOL!

As usual, the DIY project includes full source code in 68000 assembly language, plus a simple hex loader to generate the code for those who do not wish to use an assembler. The first part of the source code appears in **Listing One**. Next month I shall conclude the listing and explain exactly how it works.

**Listing Two** loads the machine code from DATA statements, using the customary DIY Toolkit hex loader. If you have typed this in before you can re-use the first part of your old file, substituting the new DATA statements from line 590 onwards.

When you RUN listing two, it checks the DATA and stores code in memory. If all is well it asks you for a file name, and saves the DIY Windows code to your chosen device - for example, you might specify FLP1\_WINDOWS\_CODE. Later you can re-load the file and link the new commands into SuperBasic, like this: B=RESPR (676) LBYTESFLP1\_WINDOWS\_CODE,BCALL B. You may like to add these commands and the CODE file to your BOOT disk or cartridge, so DIY Windows are loaded whenever you re-boot the machine.

If you do not wish to re-type the listing you may be glad to hear that complete source and binary code for this project is available on disk, with comprehensive documentation and example programs. The DIY Toolkit disk includes heap memory commands from *QL World* October 1989, example programs to save and reload window contents on any device, and a routine that will move any window around the screen, under cursor control.

Ask for DIY Toolkit Volume W, which costs £7 on its own, or £3 if you order other DIY Toolkit volumes at the same time. Write to Richard Alexander at DIY Toolkit, Cwm Gwen Hall, Pencader, Dyfed, Cymru SA39 9HA, or call (0559) 384574. DIY Toolkit files are also available on microdrive tape; please send one blank cartridge for each volume required.

The DIY Windows package includes seven new SuperBasic commands and functions, including one 'alias' to reduce problems caused by inconsistent English spelling. They all expect a mandatory channel number as first parameter; this should be the number of an open SuperBasic SCR or CON channel.

The keywords report 'channel not open' if the channel is closed or has never been opened, and 'bad parameter' if the parameter is not a display channel. A hash character is not compulsory but should precede the channel number, for consistency with other QL commands.

The function to save a window in memory is W\_STORE. This takes a Basic channel number as parameter and returns the address of the memory where it is stored. An 'out of memory' error is reported if there is insufficient memory to hold the display in the Common Heap.

W\_CRUNCH is the equivalent function



```

430      POKE start+byte,16*hb+lb
440      checksum = checksum + 16*hb + lb
450      byte = byte + 1
460    END FOR b
470  END REPEAT load_hex_digits
480  READ check
490  IF check <> checksum
500    PRINT "Checksum incorrect. Recheck data.":STOP
520  END IF
530  PRINT "Checksum correct, data entered at: ";start
560  END DEFine HEX_LOAD
570 :
580  REMark Space requirements for the machine code
590  DATA 676
600 :
610  REMark Machine code data
620  DATA "43FA025034780110","4ED26100009E5543"
630  DATA "6600015C3C31E802","54AE0058600C6100"
640  DATA "008A534366000148","7C006100010C3E00"
650  DATA "74FF701B4E414A80","666E22083007217C"
660  DATA "42756661FFFC20EE","00E02D4100E020C5"
670  DATA "30C430C655466B0A","6602528C47FA01A6"
680  DATA "600447FA01E66100","007A38012A01383C"
690  DATA "081FD28169145344","2A0170102205E1A1"
700  DATA "690498402A01E240","66F272063078011A"
710  DATA "4E90226E00585D89","2D4900582385E802"
720  DATA "3384E80078027000","4E75347801124E92"
730  DATA "666A3E31E8006B5E","54AE0058CEFC0028"
740  DATA "DEAE0030BEAE0034","6C502E3678006B4A"
750  DATA "20474E7561D45343","66000094615A47FA"
760  DATA "015C45EC00803400","4E93284A51CFFFA4"
770  DATA "70004E7561B45543","66743C31E8026138"
780  DATA "4A466B0C528C6702","7CFF47FA010260D2"
790  DATA "47FA011060CC70F1","600270FA588F4E75"
800  DATA "6188554366483C31","E802610C4A466AD0"
810  DATA "528C47FA00E460AA","45FA008C76FF7009"
820  DATA "4E434A8066D63001","280128494841C2C0"
830  DATA "4A466702E2895C81","5C812A0148443004"
840  DATA "E248534048445344","4E7570FC4E7570F1"
850  DATA "4E7549EB0010BBCC","66F4518D6100FF2C"
860  DATA "264D508D34780118","4E9266E42E31E800"
870  DATA "6BD0C807000066D6","24473C2A000A6198"
880  DATA "20475888BA9866C2","B85866BE54885546"
890  DATA "6B0C6602528C47FA","00728000FF2647FA"
900  DATA "00746000FF1E7028","B0906700FFA23028"
910  DATA "0018E44808800000","22680032D2C03228"
920  DATA "001AC2FC0080D3C1","7206D2680018D268"
930  DATA "001CE44908810000","924048413228001E"
940  DATA "70004E7510DC528C","51CAFFFA4E751866"
950  DATA "548C51CAFFFA4E75","1914588C51CAFFFA"
960  DATA "4E7518DC51CAFFFC","4E7518D8528C51CA"
970  DATA "FFFA4E7538D851CA","FFFC4E75121C1954"
980  DATA "FFFF18C151CAFFFC","4E7530DC51CAFFFC"
990  DATA "4E750005FF1E0657","5F53484F5700FE76"
1000 DATA "06575F53574F5000","FE6C06575F535741"
1010 DATA "5000FE8207534554","5F524544FA40953"
1020 DATA "45545F475245454E","00000002FD920757"
1030 DATA "5F53544F5245FD74","08575F4352554E43"
1040 DATA "48000000","*",64709

```

to save a window in compressed form. The compression scheme is simple but effective, halving the memory requirement. It takes advantage of the way that QL screen memory is organised. The Mode4 screen occupies 32K of memory, using 128 bytes per line of 512 pixels. Alternate bytes are used to hold red and green information for each group of eight pixels. Even bytes record the colour green, and odd bytes the colour red, so POKE 131072,255 plots a green line eight pixels wide at the top left corner of the display, assuming that area was black initially.

If both red and green bits in adjacent bytes are set, the display is white, so POKE 131073,15 turns the four rightmost pixels of the green line to white. 15 is 00001111 in binary notation, allowing one bit per pixel.

W\_CRUNCH saves memory by storing only the odd or even bytes from a window.

It takes two parameters and returns an address, like W\_STORE. The first parameter is the channel number, followed by the code of the colour to be stored: as usual, use 2 for Red or 4 for Green. Thus X=W\_CRUNCH(#1,4) sets X to the address where the green bytes from window #1 are stored.

Most QL windows contain text in two colours, such as black on green, or white on red, and this compression scheme works well in such cases. You only need to store the bytes that differ between ink and paper - green, to suit these examples - and set the appropriate background before you restore the window.

Greater compression may be possible by recording the 'run length' of sequences of particular colours, so blank lines can be encoded as the colour, and the number of pixels of that colour. Such an approach gives good results if the window contains

areas of solid colour, but may be counter-productive if the image is complicated or uses stippled colours.

The amount of shrinkage is hard to predict when sequence compression is used. In the worst cases the squashed image may need MORE memory than the un-compressed original, because of the extra bytes recording the length of short runs! Sequence compression could be added to DIY Windows, but it would slow things down; in general W\_CRUNCH is preferable because it gives fast, predictable savings.

Stored information can be re-displayed at high speed with W\_SHOW #1,X. This works with four-colour images recorded by W\_STORE, or two-colour information generated by W\_CRUNCH. The memory at X remains allocated, so you can W\_SHOW the window again once it has been stored.

When you have several active windows you end up using quite a lot of memory to store their contents, so it is important to release that memory when it is no longer needed. DIY Windows makes this easy, especially if you have Toolkit 2 on your system.

Each area of memory used by W\_STORE and W\_CRUNCH is linked into Toolkit 2's list of temporary allocations, normally used by the ALCHP function. Such allocations are automatically released when you type LOAD, LRUN or NEW to load a new program. The linkage means that these commands also de-allocate memory used by DIY Windows.

You can also release the memory with the CLCHP command, or use RECHP to de-allocate a specific area. The first four bytes of the area are used to extend the ALCHP list, so the command to release window details at X is RECHP X+4. Toolkit 2 reports a 'bad parameter' error if you supply an inappropriate address.

All is not lost if you do not own Toolkit 2, as window storage space can also be released with DEALLOCATE from Turbo Toolkit, or DIY Toolkit's own DISCARD command. These Toolkits do not automatically release memory when a new program is loaded. They expect you to specify the same address used with W\_SHOW, such as DISCARD X or DEALLOCATE X.

DISCARD checks that the parameter is valid, while DEALLOCATE just passes it on to Qdos and hopes for the best! The heap may be corrupted, causing the machine to crash, if you get it wrong.

The memory allocated by W\_CRUNCH and W\_STORE is owned by the task that calls the function. This means that it is automatically released when a compiled SuperBasic task terminates. You can still use RECHP, DEALLOCATE or DISCARD to free space as you go along.

Each window memory allocation has a 12-byte header, followed by the information from the display memory. The first long word is the link used by Toolkit 2, followed by the total length of the area,



including the header. Next come two words: the height of the stored window in pixels, and a flag to signal W\_CRUNCH compression, set to zero for W\_STORE, and two or four otherwise.

When a crunched image is restored with W\_SHOW, only the odd or even bytes in the window are affected. Unless you are wearing a pair of 3D glasses, you should clear the other bytes with CLS or one of the other commands in DIY Windows, or you may end up with a disconcerting mixture of two displays, one red, the other green!

W\_SHOW reports 'bad parameter' if the supplied address is odd or negative, and 'out of range' if the stored details will not fit the window. You can store an image and re-display it in another window, or move the original window to a new location before calling W\_SHOW, but the size must be unchanged.

All these routines adjust the window coordinates to fit a word boundary in video memory. This means that they store pixels from a column number evenly divisible by eight, to the next similar boundary at the right hand side of the window. Overlapping windows work best if they are a multiple of eight pixels wide and offset from the left margin by a similar multiple: 0, 8, 16 etc.

This also ensures top speed for text

output in the window, particularly if C\_SIZE 1,0 is selected. The default SCR and CON windows are appropriately placed, as are the (F2) TV windows and the (F1) Monitor mode ones, if the border is ignored. You should take account of any border when calculating the leftmost column; for instance, BORDER 2,2 adds four pixels of red border at the left and right edge of the window.

The other DIY Windows commands allow manipulation of the red and green bytes in display memory. W\_SWAP exchanges the red and green bytes in a window, so white text on black is unchanged, but red ink becomes green, and vice versa. There are two valid spellings of the word SWAP, so the command W\_SWOP is also accepted and has the same effect. Only one parameter is needed - the channel number.

SET\_RED takes two parameters: a channel number, followed by a number indicating the operation to be performed on the red bytes in display memory. SET\_RED #0,0 clears all the red bytes, turning a red image on white paper into black on green. SET\_RED #0,1 has the opposite effect, setting all the red bytes.

The third possibility copies from the green bytes to the red bytes along-

side. SET\_RED #0,-1 converts green on black text into white on black. Every green pixel has the corresponding red bit set, changing its colour from green to white. The same three options are available with the SET\_GREEN command, but this time it is the green bits that are affected. SET\_GREEN #1,0 clears the green bits, SET\_GREEN #1,1 sets them, and SET\_GREEN #1,-1 copies from red to green.

The commands can process windows generated by other tasks. The easy way to do this is to set up a new window with the same dimensions, from Basic, and use that channel number to save or re-colour the window when it is on the screen. Alternatively you could extract the channel ID from the Qdos table, as demonstrated in DIY Toolkit Volume Q, and tell Basic about it by updating the Channel Table with BPOKE\_L, from DIY Toolkit Volume B.

The August DIY Toolkit will conclude listing one and discuss possible modifications to the code to make best use of Minerva, Mode8 and available memory. The article will also explain a simple way to add icon menus for QL tasks, extending DIY Windows in the direction of a full 'WIMP' system.

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# SOFTWARE FILE

**Program:** Pudge  
**Memory:** 128K  
**Publisher:** CGH Services,  
Cwm Gwen Hall,  
Pencader, Dyfed,  
Cymru SA39 9HA  
**Price:** £12.50  
(disk or mdv)

## PUDGE

**T**his is a brand new arcade-puzzle game written by Damon Chaplin, following his earlier successes, *Speedfreaks* and *Assault & Battery* (also now published by CGH Services – see *QL World* December 1990). QL owners will be pleased to learn that this game (like the current versions of the other two) is not copy protected, and works 100% on a Minerva rom.

The program is supplied with a short manual which explains a little of the background of the game and how to play it. Apparently the original idea for this game was based upon a similar public domain game for the Atari ST, although I get the feeling that the scenario was very much Damon's own work.

### Cartoon

The idea behind the game would at first seem simple, you control a little cartoon-like character named Pudge, who is living on a planet which is doomed to destruction due to nuclear dumping. Pudge is an environmentalist who seems to have become trapped on this planet (the environmental issues on Earth must have seemed too easy for him), and wishes to save it. However, many things stand in his way: radioactive earth, nuclear canisters, bombs and Naggons (the race of beings responsible for the dumping). It is Pudge's job to clear away the radioactive material and defeat the Naggons, thus ridding the planet of its terrible fate (at least until a sequel is devised).

Once loaded, you are presented with the first of 32 screens, each of which is made

**I** Rich Mellor gets a Naggon in this alien-zapping game.

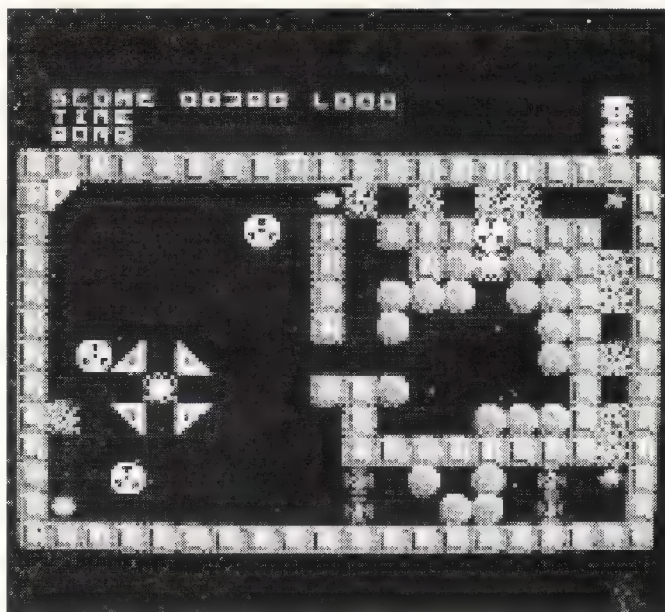
up of various colourful symbols representing the different nasties that Pudge has to clear away, as well as various other items to help Pudge in his task. You merely have to guide Pudge around the screen by using the cursor keys (or a joystick) in order to achieve your various tasks. Collecting the radioactive earth seems easy – you merely have to move Pudge over this – but then nothing is ever that simple as you have to work quickly to avoid radiation poisoning. Luckily there are various anti-radiation pills scattered around the screens that you can collect which will give you more time to spend achieving your tasks.

Before you can proceed to the next level, you have to destroy the radioactive canisters which litter the planet – by pushing them into one of the 'chompers', which you will find on the screen. This is in fact fairly easy, since any number can be moved at a time, by merely placing Pudge behind the object and then moving Pudge in the required direction with the object in front of him. Triangular parts of the walls allow you to turn the direction in which these canisters are being moved quite easily. The canisters should not be destroyed too early on all of the screens however, since they have another use which I shall come to later.

Your time is however limited by the bombs which appear on most the screens. To destroy one of these bombs, you must

surround them by four boulders (forming the shape of a cross). Boulders are quite heavy and Pudge can only move one at a time, so it is important to plan your moves carefully; it is all too easy to trap Pudge by moving one boulder behind another and making it difficult for him to push it. It is here that the first puzzle element comes into play, and although it can take some time to plan your strategy for moving a set of boulders, even young players should be able to come up with some sort of a solution early on in the game (luckily the game can be paused by pressing F2 at any time to allow you to sit and have a long think – unfortunately the manual did not mention this).

On later levels, you will come across the Naggons who move around the screen in search of you – touching them means instant death for Pudge, and so it becomes a major priority to destroy these. Naggons can be destroyed in a similar way to the bombs, ie by surrounding them with four radioactive canisters. Unfortunately the main problem here is not how to get the canisters to the Naggons, but rather how to set up a trap before finally placing the final canister. Again, quite a lot of thought will be needed here, especially on one of the screens where there are three Naggons to destroy and only four canisters (luckily there is no bomb to take care of on this screen).





Overall the game is extremely addictive, but beware: on some levels there is only one way in which to complete the screen within the allowed time. One early mistake may prevent you from completing the given screen, as you are blocked in. But to help players out a little, each screen has a distinct password, displayed at the top of the screen, and typing this in on the title screen allows you to start the game from that screen – so you need only practice those screens that you are having difficulty with.

### Diagonal

Those of you with full sized keyboards will be pleased to learn that the game does not entail any need for diagonal movement. If you are like me, you will have soon found out that a full sized keyboard tends to make it difficult to play games where you need to press two keys at a time. (When you are holding down two keys and release one, the QL does not tend to recognise that any key

is being pressed, still – I wonder if this is just because of the Jurgen Falkenberg interface, or if there is a fix?)

In all there are 32 original screens to complete, although I have only managed to reach level 12, despite many many hours of play. The level of difficulty is just right to keep you coming back to the game, and for those of you who are clever and lucky enough to complete all 32 screens, a screen design program is provided to enable you to create your own screens. This appears to be well written but does not check to see if a screen can actually be completed, and so only those players who have managed to complete all of the supplied levels should really try this one.

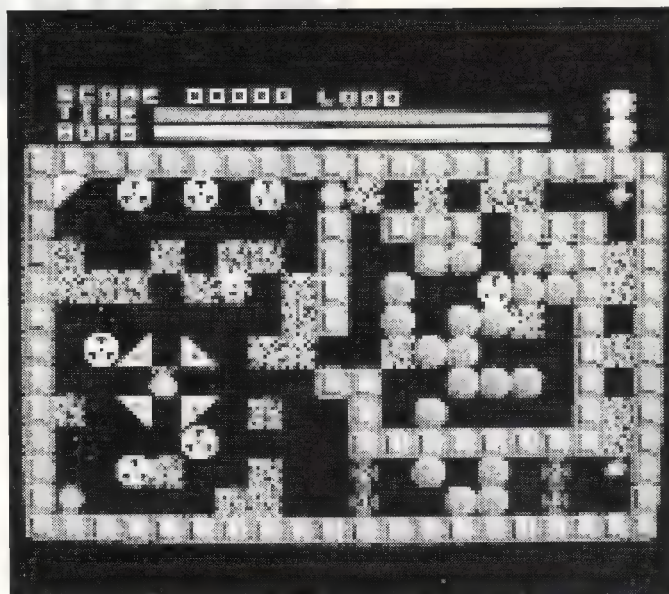
### Slow down

About the only problem of which I am aware is that the game runs too quickly on *Miracle's Gold Card*, although I understand that there is now an extra command on the Gold Card which allows you to slow down the speed of keyboard

access for games such as this.

This game is extremely well written and is possibly the first environmentally friendly computer game for the QL and as such deserves success (although I wonder just how close to the Earth's future this could be?). The screens are all well designed and wonderfully

colourful and should attract even the youngest games players to the QL. What is more, this program is useful for developing strategic planning and should suit all types of QL users, from those who would rather have a game of chess to those who find great pleasure out of zapping aliens.



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# SOFTWARE FILE

## INFORMATION

### Program:

QuickDisk+DiskTool

**Price:** £19.95 plus 5% to Europe, 10% to rest of world.

**Supplier:** Digital Precision Ltd., 222 The Avenue, Chingford, London E4 9SE.  
Tel. 081 527 5493

# QUICKDISK + DISKTOOL

**Bryan Davies tries two updated disk-handling facilities which started life with Ultrasoft.**

**T**hese two utilities are part of a set which originated from Martin Berndt of UltraSoft, in Germany, and is now part of the Digital Precision collection. DP have gone through these programs, making changes where thought necessary, and re-writing the instructions. Both programs work under the QJump *Pointer Environment*, which is supplied on the disk. Users who already have QPac installed should not need to load the PE files, although they may find that the ones supplied are later versions than their own.

The programs are supplied

only on disk. A 4-page instruction leaflet is supplied; this is adequate to describe the program functions, but there is little advice on using the Pointer Environment, on the basis that it 'requires little documentation', which is questionable.

### Load check

As is usual with DP products, copy-protection is not employed and a working copy can be made by using the COPY or WCOPY command. Loading is via a boot file, and a check is made to see whether or not the PE has already been loaded, to avoid trying to load it twice. Both programs are automatically EXECed from the boot, but the latter can be altered so that one or both are not EXECed straight away. They can be started by *TaskMaster*, *QRam*, *QPac*, etc. DiskTool can be defined as a Hotkey, if you use Hotkey II, or it can be put onto a 16 KB eeprom if you have (access to) an eeprom blower (two files are supplied for these pur-

poses). The standard QJump CONFIG routine is supplied, for configuring the programs. You may be able to incorporate the programs into an existing, non-PE boot, but some experimentation is likely to be required, as there might be compatibility problems.

### Don't touch

When the instructions get down to describing what the programs do, they hit on what may be a sore point with users (such as myself) who have one-third-height 3.5 in Mitsubishi disk drives. QuickDisk 'speed-optimises disk organisation' and, to do that efficiently, it should be configured for the specific drive controller chip installed in your disk interface. The chances are that most users do not have this information to hand, and you are advised to take the cover off the interface and check to see what is written on the chips. What really ought to be said also is: don't touch the chips. Literally. The drive controller chips can be damaged simply by being touched with the small amount of static electricity passed by one finger, even if you can't feel it.

What you are looking for is the designation WD1770, or WD1772, on one of the larger chips. Early interfaces of most makes will usually have the WD1770. The WD1772 has been fitted to Trump Cards, and that is the best guess if you don't feel inclined to risk taking the cover off your TC. The WD1772 is nominally 'better';

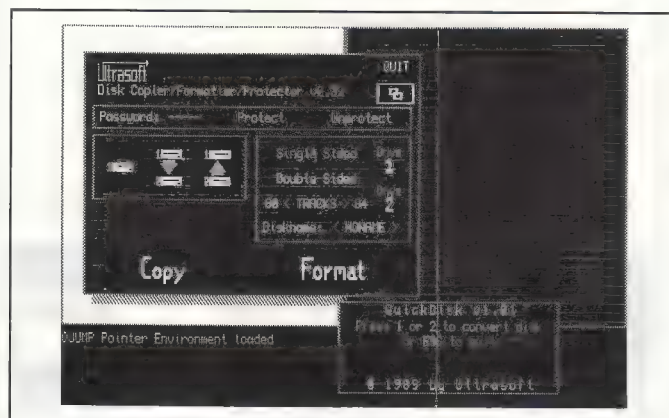
unfortunately, it does a poor job of handling the aforementioned Mitsubishi drives. For this reason, some Trump Cards will have been retrofitted with the WD1770. (If you have a Trump Card and these drives, and the latter sound as though they are being shaken to bits, you may need a 1770!) The default setting of QuickDisk is for the 1772; fortunately, it should work (albeit not at peak speed) even if set wrong. It seemed to work satisfactorily with either setting on the review system. The warning is given to back up important files before proceeding with use of QuickDisk, just in case something goes wrong. Later in the instructions, it is pointed out that recovery of files on a damaged disk may be more difficult (with Media Manager SE, for instance) once the disk has been treated by QuickDisk.

### Quick files

The action of QuickDisk is to 'convert' formatted disks in such a way that files copied onto them are accessible more quickly.

When the boot is run, DiskCopy and QuickDisk come up in their own windows, the latter having the cursor. Be careful with the ESC key as it has the usual, final effect on programs running under the PE - they get killed. Use CTRL-C to switch to other programs if you want the two utilities to stay alive. QuickDisk offers the simple choice of pressing 1, 2 or ESC. The 1 or 2 key initiates conversion of the disk in flp1\_ or flp2\_, the process taking a few seconds. The disk should be both formatted and empty before being treated. A DIR subsequently will show no change. If the FORMAT command is used on the disk, the latter will revert to its normal, unconverted state.

That's all there is to QuickDisk, so the question is 'what good has it done me?' The first thing to be assured of is that it has done no harm;





normal operations, such as WCOPY, involving converted disks, are carried out the same as normal. There is no evident difference. Using WCOPY to copy a mixed bag of 52 files (occupying 717 KB when copied) from win1\_ to flp1\_, until the 'drive full' message appeared on the screen, took 4 minutes 58 seconds with a normal, unconverted disk. A DIR (three-piece) of flp2\_ then took 10 seconds. A WCOPY of all files from flp2\_ to ram1\_ took 5 minutes 58 seconds ('drive full'). Deleting all files on flp2\_ with WDEL took 33 seconds. The same operations after the disk had been treated by QuickDisk took 3 minutes 10 seconds, 5 seconds, 5 minutes 18 seconds and 25 seconds. So, housekeeping operations are performed appreciably faster. As a check of typical word-processing operations, a 312 KB text file was loaded into Perfection; it took 2 minutes 35 seconds from a normal disk, 2 minutes 23 seconds from a converted disk. Saving the same file took 57 and 40 seconds, respectively. Likewise, appreciably faster.

You couldn't wish for anything much simpler than QuickDisk, and DiskTool is not complicated either. The program window offers its services as 'copier/formatter/protector', and a sub-window displays icons for an flp1 to flp1 copy, flp1 to flp2, and flp2 to flp1. A further sub-window displays the options single- or double-sided, 80- or 84-track, disk name, drive 1 or 2. Copy and Format each have their own sub-window, and Password and its three options, (sic; see lower down), Protect and Unprotect, are together in another.

## Cursor

As usual with the Pointer Environment, the cursor changes appearance as it is moved around the screen, starting off as a floppy disk symbol with QL written on it. Cursor navigation by mouse (Qimi-type) is much faster than by cursor keys, but this program doesn't place great demands on the navigator and is not one where a mouse is virtually essential. Movement of the cursor into the area of an

option causes a highlight box to appear around the option name. A list of keys is given for direct activation of options; several of them are mnemonic and easy to memorise (eg N for Disk Name, 1 for drive 1). Standard for PE operations, but likely to be confusing for non-devotees, is that options are generally selected by pressing Space rather than Enter, but some options - such as Copy and Format - require Enter rather than Space.

Having pressed Space on all the appropriate options to do an 80-track, double-sided format, it was a bit disconcerting to find 84-track highlighted during the operation, and then have a box pop up after some seconds with a couple of exclamation icons, and the messages 'error' and 'format failed'. The change of tracks actually occurred because of my hitting Space when 80-track was already selected; this automatically changed the setting to 84-track - something doing my thinking for me and coming up with the wrong answer. The instructions tell you to ignore the error messages! Returning to SuperBasic and doing a DIR confirmed that the disk had been formatted, and to 1512 sectors, as stated. That is, 72 sectors (36 KB) more than standard. Usable sectors are 1506, against the standard 1434. The instructions don't explain why the program bothers to display the misleading messages.

## Difficult

As with QuickDisk, you are warned that the sorting-out of a corrupted 84-track disk may prove more difficult than for an 80-track one.

Having gained the extra space, it makes sense to go one step further and apply the QuickDisk conversion to 84-track disks. It is stated that there is no penalty from either operation, apart from that mentioned about recovery from disk problems. The 'treated' disks should be read from, and written to, by SB and programs, without difficulty, and in other drives too; there is no need for the PE or either of these programs to be present subsequently.

One operation produced

undesirable results - formatting a disk 84-track, single-sided. Although the format seemed to be performed alright, a subsequent WCOPY to the disk resulted in some pained noises from the drive and a string of 'bad or changed medium' messages which could be stopped only by re-setting. Disk and drive seemed in order afterwards, though. Bearing in mind the points made in the instructions about disk controller chips, the standard QJump CONFIG routine (supplied on the disk) was used to change the default chip setting for QuickDisk from WD1772 to WD1770, as the latter type is installed in my Trump Card (because of the aforementioned problem). This change doesn't apply to DiskTool. The WCOPY operation still gave the same result, and QuickDisk hadn't been used this time, so it appears best - on my system at least - to stay away from the single-sided format. There was no problem with a WCOPY after a double-sided 84-track format, and conversion.

## Disk name

The Copy icons are simply a convenience - there is nothing special about the copying process. An advance on SuperBasic is provided by the Disk Name option, which can be used at any time, not just when a format is done as is the case with SB. A small feature, but one which many users must have wished for many times.

The Password function could be useful if you use your QL in an office environment where there are confidential files which some people should not have access to. The protection works on both program and data files; it is necessary to have both a copy of DiskTool and the password to be able to access protected files. Attempts at access without these things result in 'bad or changed medium' messages, or '0/0 sectors' when DIR or STAT commands are used. Copying, loading or viewing operations just fail completely.

The use of a password is not without pitfalls for the unwary and you are warned that attempting to unprotect a protected disk and giving the

wrong password in the process will make everything on the disk permanently inaccessible, after only one attempt. A rather drastic action, since it is quite possible an 'authorised' user would make a slight slip when entering the password. Backups are again the order of the day.

## Password

The instructions could have been a little clearer for such a sensitive operation; the box shown with — in it in the illustration is for entering the password, and you have to place the cursor on it first, then press Space. This changes the box contents to ????, if no password has been entered. Surprisingly, this action displays the password if you have entered one previously during the current session, so don't leave the DiskTool window on the screen for anyone else to play with. It might have been more self-explanatory to have this box named Password. The password (up to four characters, case-dependent) is typed in and Enter pressed. You then select the Protect box and press Space.

As claimed, the contents of a Protected disk became inaccessible to all normal operations. When the DiskTool window was again called up to Unprotect the disk, the password was still displayed in it, and it appears that anyone capable of using CTRL-C could discover the last password used at any time until either DiskTool has been killed or the QL reset. Both the Protect and Unprotect operations are accompanied by a message box saying 'disk change', even though there has been no change of disk; you have to press Space with the cursor on an OK box to complete the operation.

The two programs are easy to use and provide operational bonuses which are well worth having. Use of them should be accompanied by extra caution in the matter of making backups. The password function also requires care in use. The price is reasonable and both QuickDisk and DiskTool should make useful additions to a utilities collection, especially for Pointer Environment users.



# QL INTERNATIONAL

An International QL Meeting was held in Germany in March. Dilwyn Jones reports.

**O**n the 20th March, a minibus full of Quanta members set out for the International QL Meeting in north-west Germany. The venue was a school hall in Münster-Roxel. This was the latest in a series of outings organised by Quanta, the QL user group. The International QL Meeting was organised by Franz Hermann of the Sinclair QL User Club eV of Germany.

Several German traders attended the meeting, including Jochen Merz, Albin Hessler Software and Jurgen Falkenburg Computer Teknik. Jochen Merz demonstrated and sold his well-known products for both the QL and the Atari ST. The ST-QL emulator card is well known and widely used in Germany - it offers a very high degree of compatibility with QL software. As a software supplier, he is widely respected for his range of Pointer Environment software, including several of Tony Tebby's products.

Albin Hessler showed his *Easy-Ptr II* system for Pointer Environment programmers. This simplifies the writing of menus and so on, removing the need for the more complex programming involved when using the Qptr package by itself. Albin also demonstrated a PC-type serial mouse connected to a QL via the QL's SER ports. With the serial mouse driver software, it enabled the mouse to drive the Pointer Environment as though it was a Qimi mouse (the original QJump mouse system for the QL). This will be available in Britain, eventually, through EEC Ltd., I was told.

Jurgen Falkenburg produces a range of hardware add-ons for the QL, including a PC keyboard interface, bus expander, EAN barcode reader, QL picture scanner and an A/D converter. His products are not that well known outside of Germany, which is a pity since he has obviously put a lot of work into them. Traders and user groups from other countries were present too, including Progs of Belgium, Ergon Development from Italy and Cowo Electronic from Switzerland. I met QL users from places as far apart as France, the Netherlands, and Scandinavia.

While exploring the various stands, I came across two very interesting pieces of software. We all know that Sinclair Research produced other computers before the QL, but did you know that the QL can run ZX81 and Spectrum software? I saw the ZX81 emulator

Photos by Bill Newell



DILWYN JONES HARD AT WORK.



BILL RICHARDSON OF EEC IN FULL FLIGHT.



while at the show. It is a software package written by Carlo Delhez, a QL user in The Netherlands (a demonstration version is available from Qubbesoft in Britain). He has also written a Spectrum emulator and I was told that there are at least two other such emulators being developed.

Language proved to be no barrier at the meeting - people spoke whichever language they could best communicate in! The QL proved itself to be an international medium of communication. One amusing experience occurred when two users from different countries tried to speak English to each other, but had to grab

the nearest 'Englishman' to translate one English accent into another, except that, by choosing me, they got one with a Welsh accent to confuse them even more!

Most of the British traders who advertise in QL World were present (notable exceptions being Digital Precision and CGH Services). EEC, Quanta, TF Services, Miracle Systems and Qubbesoft were among those present. Miracle Systems apparently did a roaring trade in Gold Cards, which are now much reduced in price at £225, compared with nearly £400 when first launched.

Several talks, lectures and demonstrations took place. Subjects included Minerva, bulletin boards, *Fleet Tactical Command* and the future of Qdos and the QL. Sadly, I missed most of these because I did not know what was on at which time, a point to improve on for next time, maybe. The whole show was conducted in a friendly, informal manner which brought QL users from several countries together for an enjoyable day out in a sea of Sinclair QLs and ST-QLs. Some no doubt departed poorer, having spent their money on bits and pieces for the QL, while others shared knowledge and made new friends.

After a very enjoyable day at the International QL Meeting, we retired to a local hotel for the night, before departing for a very wet journey back to Britain the following morning. I, for one, am certainly looking forward to the next such outing.



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International QL Conference bulletin board system (Swedish and English). Contact: Michael Cronsten, System Operator, Jamten-TCL, S Soere 1073, 83030 Lit, Sweden.

## USA

New England Sinclair QL User Group (USA) Membership Secretary: Sherm Waterman, PO Box 8763, Boston, MA 02114 8763, USA. Magazine: *NESQLUG News*. Editor: Peter Hale, 195 Central Ave., Chelsea, MA 02150, USA.

## NORWAY

Norwegian All Sinclair Association (NASA) Contact: P Monstad, NASA, N-5580 Oelen, Norway. Magazine: *Sinclair Magazine*.

## ITALY

Qitaly Club Chairman: Roberto Orlandi, Via Brescia 26, 25039 Travagliato (BS), Italy. Tel. (local) +39 30 6863311. Magazine: *Qitaly Magazine*. Editor: Dr Eros Forenzi, Via Valeriana 44, 23010 Berbenno (SO), Italy. Tel. (local) +39 342 492323.

## TURKEY

QL Qlub (Turkey). Contact: Bulent Artuz, Prof. Sitesi B/1 D/5, Etiler 80600, Istanbul, Turkey.

## AUSTRIA

DER Computer Club. Contact: Peter Postl, Stiegery 5, 1150 Wien, Austria

## ENGLAND

Quanta (UK) Membership Secretary, Bill Newell, 213 Manor Road, Benfleet, Essex SS7 4JD. Magazine: *Quanta*. Editor: Bill Fuggle, 20 Widnes Avenue, Selly Oak, Birmingham B29 6QE.

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London sub-group: Jeremy Davis, 6 Elmcroft Crescent, Harrow, Middlesex HA2 6HN.

Northern Ireland: Billy Turkington, Fairyhill, Rostrevor, Newry, Co., Down BT34 3BB.

Mid-Southern sub-group: Geoff Fish, 44 Billing Avenue, Wokingham, Berks RG11 4JE.

QL User Group (West Midlands): Mike Bedford-White, 16 Westfield Road, Acocks Green, Birmingham B27 7TL.

QL MUG: 3 Barnard Road, Birkenhead, L43 1TT.

## SCOTLAND

Scottish QL Users Group Contact: Alan Pemberton, 65 Lingerwood Rd., Newtongrange, Midlothian EH22 4QQ. Newsletter.

## HOLLAND

Sin QL Air (Netherlands) Membership Secretary: Bob Visser, Snelrewaard 6, 2904 SN Capelle, a/d IJssel, Netherlands. Magazine: *Quasar*. Editor: C H M Biemans, Elzenstraat 5, 5461 CL Veghel, Netherlands.

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Sinclair QL User Club eV (Germany) Foreign Contact: Franz Herrmann, Talstrasse 21, d-W5460 Ochtersfel, West Germany. Magazine: *Quasar*.

## SPAIN

Qliper Editor: Marcos Cruz, Acacias 44, (Monteclaro), E-28023 Pozuelo de Alarcon, Spain. Magazine: *Qliper*.



# Systematic Machine Code Programming

**In Part 8, Alan Bridewell applies number inputting to the control of screen drawing parameters.**

**T**his series has been building up a library of small chunks of Assembler Language code. Each chunk will do a recognisable job within a program, and be fully annotated, so that it will be clear exactly how to join it to other chunks of code to make a program, and what changes may be necessary to make the chunks fit together.

In the last article, we looked at inputting numbers into a program in such a way that it avoided inputting them directly from the keyboard. This would then overcome the problems of trying to get error-free numeric input. This month we shall look at how to apply these ideas in real programming situations.

The classic situation is of drawing designs on the screen, the way CAD programs do. The example we shall take is of drawing ellipses on the screen. However, if you follow through the program, and understand its principles, you should be able to see how to apply the same basic ideas to other drawing problems, for instance the "rubber-band" method of drawing lines. The point is this. The program user does not want to have to input parameters directly from the keyboard to draw the required shape. For a start, the user may not have the remotest idea what parameters are required, never mind about the actual values. Also, the user may only have a rough idea of what actual shape is wanted, until the shape can be seen on the screen. What the user needs is a routine which will, first of all, draw an ellipse somewhere on the screen. Then, by the use of the cursor keys, the ellipse can be moved around the screen, stretched, shrunk, and rotated, until eventually it is in the desired position, size, shape and orientation. It can then be left there ready for the next bit of the design to be added.

Clearly, what our program must be able to do is to use the cursor keys to alter the floating point parameters for the ellipse, rub out the old ellipse, and then redraw the

```

Listing 1

; *****
;                                     'COPY'
; *****
; THIS WILL COPY A BLOCK OF LONG WORDS FROM ONE ADDRESS TO ANOTHER
; THE LOOP COUNTER SHOULD BE ONE LESS THAN THE NUMBER OF LONG WORDS.
;
.COPY          LEA.L    SOURCE,A1 ; SOURCE ADDRESS IN A1
               LEA.L    DEST,A2  ; DESTINATION ADDRESS IN A2
               MOVEQ    #4,D1    ; LOOP COUNTER
.LOOP          MOVE.L   (A1)+,(A2)+ ; MOVE LONG WORDS
               DBRA     D1,LOOP   ; DECREMENT AND LOOP
               BRA      NEXTBIT  ; BRANCH TO NEXT BIT
;
; *****

```

ellipse according to the new parameters. However this does introduce a few complications. Rubbing out old ellipses is simply achieved by putting the window in XOR drawing mode. This means that the drawn colour is XORed with the background. If the background consists of the drawn ellipse, it will simply be rubbed out. A further problem is that each time the old ellipse is to be kept, and a new ellipse drawn, the ellipse parameters need to be restored to their default values. This means keeping a second set of default parameters to copy into the ellipse parameter table each time we wish to start drawing another ellipse.

**Listing One** is a short 'COPY' routine, which will copy any block of long words from one address to another. SOURCE and DEST are the start addresses of the source block and the destination block.

The loop counter must be set to one less than the number of long words to be copied. Blocks as large as 64K can be copied this way, if the MOVEQ is changed to a MOVE.W command, but it is a bit slow for large blocks. However it's ideal for parameter tables.

The program, then, must do the following.

1. First, start the job, open the window, enable the cursor, and put in the XOR mode.
2. Copy the default parameter table to the ellipse parameter table and draw the default ellipse.
3. The program must then wait for a key press.
4. It must next analyse the key press to find out if it is to leave the routine with the current ellipse left in place, or draw another ellipse.

```

Listing 2

; *****
;                                     'MAIN'
; *****
;
.MAIN          JSR      FBYTE    ; GET KEY PRESS
               LEA.L    BYTE,A1  ; BYTE ADDRESS IN A1
               CMPI.B   #10,(A1) ; IS BYTE = 10 <ENTER>?
               BEQ      CLOSE    ; IF SO, CLOSE
               LEA.L    BYTE,A1  ; BYTE ADDRESS IN A1
               CMPI.B   #32,(A1) ; IS BYTE = 32 <SPACE>
               BEQ.S    COPY     ; IF SO, NEW ANOTHER ELLIPSE
               JSR      ELLIPSE  ; TO REMOVE OLD ELLIPSE
               JSR      TEST     ; TEST FOR KEY PRESS
               JSR      ELLIPSE  ; TO DRAW NEW ELLIPSE
               BRA      MAIN     ; AND START AGAIN
;
; *****

```



5. If the key press indicates more adjustments to the current ellipse, it must rub out the old ellipse, ready to draw the new one. This involves drawing the ellipse in XOR mode over the old ellipse.

6. It must then analyse the key press to determine what parameter change is required, and make the required change.

7. Next, it must draw the new ellipse.

8. Finally, it must loop back to wait for another key press.

9. If, at any stage, the key press indicates leave the ellipse and start another, the program must loop back to step 2. If we are to leave the routine, the program must close the window, and kill the job.

Clearly, the first and last steps are only needed to make this sample routine into a self contained EXECable program. Normally, it would be a small part of a larger program. In this case, presumably, the program would already be started with the window open, the cursor enabled, and in XOR mode. So when the main program entered this routine, the first step would be to copy the default parameter table and draw the default ellipse. When all the required ellipses were in place, the last step would be to go back to the main program, and would not close the window or kill the job.

### Three Stages

The previous program examples in this series have been ones where the steps have followed each other in a simple linear manner. Also, where there have been repetitions of steps, they have been short ones. This program is more complex, and requires a more subtle program technique. For a start, there are three situations involving the 'ELLIPSE' routine to draw an ellipse. There is drawing the initial default ellipse, drawing the background colour ellipse to rub out the old one, and drawing the new ellipse. 'ELLIPSE' is rather a long routine, and to repeat it three times will make the program rather long. Also the three situations do not easily make for a linear approach.

The solution is to put a bit more 'structure' into the program. This is done by making various chunks of code into sub-routines, which can be called in a variety of ways from a 'MAIN' routine. Making a chunk of code into a subroutine simply means making it end with an 'RTS' command to return to the calling code, rather than the usual 'BRA NEXTBIT' type of ending. This allows much more flexibility, and will certainly make the program more concise. It does, however, mean that a separate 'MAIN' routine has to be written specifically for this program, and it cannot really be incorporated into the library of routines for general use. The writing of a 'MAIN' routine obviously requires more programming skill than simply putting together chunks of code, which we have been doing so far in this series. Having said that, I must add that writing 'MAIN' routines is not as difficult as writing many of the chunks which make up the library.

Listing 3

```

; *****
; 'JOBSTART'
;
;          BRA.S    START    ; BRANCH TO START OF CODE
;          DC.L     0        ; (THIS IS STANDARD FORMAT FOR
;          DC.W     $4AFB    ; START OF A JOB)
; ---- ALTER CHARACTER COUNT AND JOB NAME ----
;          DC.W     8        ; CHARACTER COUNT OF JOB NAME
;          DC.B     'ELLIPSES' ; NAME OF JOB
;
; *****
; 'CONSOLE'
;
; ---- ALTER LABEL TO .START ----
; .START      LEA.L    PBLOCK,A1    ; PBLOCK ADDRESS IN A1
;             MOVE.W   $C6,A2      ; UT_CON VECTOR IN A2
;             JSR      (A2)        ;
;
; SAVE THE CHANNEL ID WHICH UT_CON ROUTINE LEAVES IN A0.
;             MOVE.L   A0,-(A7)    ; SAVE CONSOLE ID ON STACK
;                                     ; * NOTE * THIS CHANGES A7
;                                     ; BY -4, READY FOR NEXT
;                                     ; STACK ENTRY.
;
; CLEAR THE WINDOW
;
;             MOVE.W   #$FFFF,D3   ; INFINITE TIMEOUT
;             MOVEQ    #$20,D0     ; $SD_CLEAR IN D0
;             TRAP     #3          ;
;
; ---- ALTER BRANCH ADDRESS TO CURSOR ----
;             BRA.S    CURSOR      ; SKIP BLOCK
;
; ---- ALTER BLOCK TO REQUIRED WINDOW ----
; .PBLOCK      DC.B     4          ; GREEN BORDER
;             DC.B     2          ; 2 PIXELS WIDE
;             DC.B     0          ; BLACK PAPER/STRIP
;             DC.B     7          ; WHITE INK
;             DC.W     512        ; WIDTH
;             DC.W     200        ; HEIGHT
;             DC.W     0          ; X POSITION
;             DC.W     0          ; Y POSITION
;
; *****
; 'CURSOR'
;
; ---- DELETE LINES TO ENTER ID IN A0 AND TIMEOUT IN D3 ----
; .CURSOR      MOVEQ    #$E,D0     ; $SD_CURE IN D0 (ENABLE)
;             TRAP     #3          ;
;
; *****
; 'WRITEMODE'
;
; ---- DELETE LINES TO ENTER ID IN A0 AND TIMEOUT IN D3 ----
; .WMODE       MOVEQ    #$2C,D0    ; $SETMD IN D0
;             MOVE.W   #$FFFF,D1  ; XOR INK INTO BACKGROUND
;             TRAP     #3          ;
;
; *****
; 'COPY'
;
; ---- ALTER LOAD ADDRESSES TO DEFAULTS AND EXA ----
; .COPY        LEA.L    DEFAULTS,A1 ; DEFAULT PARAMS ADDRESS IN A1
;             LEA.L    EXA,A2      ; ACTUAL PARAMS ADDRESS IN A2
;             MOVEQ    #4,D1      ; LOOP COUNTER
; .LOOP        MOVE.L   (A1)+(A2)+ ; MOVE TWO PARAMETERS
;             DBRA.L   1,LOOP      ; DECREMENT AND LOOP
;
; ---- ALTER BRANCH ADDRESS TO FIRST ----
;             BRA.S    FIRST      ; DRAW DEFAULT ELLIPSE
;
; *****
; 'MAIN'
;
; .MAIN        JSR      FBYTE      ; GET KEY PRESS
;             LEA.L    BYTE,A1    ; BYTE ADDRESS IN A1
;             CMPI.B   #10,(A1)   ; IS BYTE = 10 <ENTER>?
;             BEQ      CLOSE      ; IF SO, CLOSE
;             LEA.L    BYTE,A1    ; BYTE ADDRESS IN A1
;             CMPI.B   #32,(A1)   ; IS BYTE = 32 <SPACE>
;             BEQ.S    COPY       ; IF SO, NEW ANOTHER ELLIPSE
;             JSR      ELLIPSE    ; TO REMOVE OLD ELLIPSE
;             JSR      TEST       ; TEST FOR KEY PRESS
;             JSR      ELLIPSE    ; TO DRAW NEW ELLIPSE
;             BRA      MAIN       ; AND START AGAIN
;
; *****
; 'FBYTE'
;
; ---- DELETE LINES TO ENTER ID IN A0 AND TIMEOUT IN D3 ----
; .FBYTE       LEA.L    BYTE,A1    ; BYTE STORE ADDRESS IN A1
;             MOVEQ    #1,D0      ; ID_FBYTE IN D0
;             MOVE.W   #0,D1      ; CLEAR WORD IN D1
;             TRAP     #3          ;
;             MOVE.B   D1,(A1)    ; STORE BYTE
;
; ---- ADD NEXT LINE BECAUSE THIS IS A SUBROUTINE ----
;             RTS

```







<ALT><DOWN> to alter the eccentricity, and finally <ALT><CTRL><UP> and <ALT><CTRL><DOWN> to alter the angle. You can easily change them if you wish. Since we are testing for the <ENTER> key in the 'MAIN' routine, this can be deleted from all parts of 'TEST'. And, of course, we have to make suitable changes to labels.

When, in part 5 of this series, I covered 'ELLIPSE' and related routines, I mentioned a problem with negative parameters, a problem I was unable to account for, but able to get round. When I was putting this sample routine together, I found that the problem apparently did not occur. The program works exactly as expected without any special efforts to deal with negative parameters. As a result, I have deleted all parts of the code specifically to deal with negative parameters.

## Put Together

We are now ready to put together the chunks of code to make up the program. As before, I shall put this as a series of statements, rather than a flow chart.

1. First, we start in the usual way with 'JOBSTART', with an appropriate job name.

2. We need a suitable window to draw our ellipse, so we use 'CONSOLE'.

3. We must enable a cursor in the window with 'CURSOR'.

4. We must put the window in XOR mode with 'WRITEMODE'.

5. The default values of the ellipse parameters must be copied to the ellipse parameter table with 'COPY'.

6. Next we come to the body of the program, which is our specially written 'MAIN' routine.

Somewhere in all this we must put our subroutines. They don't have to be in any particular place, or in any particular order. In the program listing, I have put them after the 'MAIN' routine, but before the code to close the program.

7. The most important subroutine is 'ELLIPSE', and it must have a duplicate set of parameters.

8. The most complicated part of all is the construction of the subroutine 'TEST' which will test for particular key presses and alter ellipse parameters accordingly. It is constructed as follows.

8a. 'UPDOWNFP' is used to adjust the radius parameters RADA and RADB, and must be altered to test for <CTRL><UP> and <CTRL><DOWN>.

8b. 'UPDOWNINT' is used to adjust the centre Y parameter EYA, and must test for <UP> and <DOWN>. This is the default setting, and needs no alteration.

8c. 'UPDOWNINT' is used to adjust the centre X parameter EXA, and must be altered to test for <LEFT> and <RIGHT>.

8d. 'UPDOWNINT' is used to adjust the eccentricity parameter ECCA, and must be altered to test for <ALT><UP> and <ALT><DOWN>.

```
.RADA      DC.W      20      ; 1ST INTEGER OF RADIUS
.RADB      DC.W      1       ; 2ND INTEGER OF RADIUS
.ROTA      DC.W      31      ; 1ST INTEGER OF ROTATION
.ROTB      DC.W      10      ; 2ND INTEGER OF ROTATION
;
; ----- COPY OF DEFAULT VALUES OF INTEGER TABLE WITH LABEL .DEFAULTS -----
.DEFAULTS
          DC.W      80      ; 1ST INTEGER OF CENTRE X
          DC.W      1       ; 2ND INTEGER OF CENTRE X
          DC.W      50      ; 1ST INTEGER OF CENTRE Y
          DC.W      1       ; 2ND INTEGER OF CENTRE Y
          DC.W      10      ; 1ST INTEGER OF ECCENTRICITY
          DC.W      10      ; 2ND INTEGER OF ECCENTRICITY
          DC.W      20      ; 1ST INTEGER OF RADIUS
          DC.W      1       ; 2ND INTEGER OF RADIUS
          DC.W      31      ; 1ST INTEGER OF ROTATION
          DC.W      10      ; 2ND INTEGER OF ROTATION
;
; ----- DELETE SUBROUTINE TO NEGATE F.P. NUMBER -----
;
; *****
; 'UPDOWNFP'
; ----- DELETE LINE WITH UNWANTED .BYTE -----
; ***** ALTER RADIUS WITH <CTRL><UP> & <CTRL><DOWN> *****
; ----- ALTER LABEL TO .TEST -----
; ----- DELETE LINES TO CLEAR MFLAG -----
.TEST     LEA.L      BYTE,A1      ; BYTE ADDRESS IN A1
; ----- ALTER NEXT LINE TO TEST FOR <CTRL><UP> -----
          CMPI.B     #210,(A1)    ; IS BYTE = <CTRL><UP> ?
          BEQ.S      UPFP        ; IF SO, THEN UP
          LEA.L      BYTE,A1      ; BYTE ADDRESS IN A1
; ----- ALTER NEXT LINE TO TEST FOR <CTRL><DOWN> -----
          CMPI.B     #218,(A1)    ; IS BYTE = <CTRL><DOWN> ?
          BEQ.S      DOWNFP      ; IF SO THEN DOWN
; ----- DELETE 6 LINES DEALING WITH <MINUS> AND <ENTER> KEYS -----
; ----- ALTER NEXT LINE TO BRANCH TO UPDOWN -----
          BRA        UPDOWN      ; IF NEITHER, SKIP TO NEXT BIT
; MAKE NUMBER BIGGER. ADJUST VALUES TO SUIT.
; ----- ALTER LOAD ADDRESS TO RADA -----
.UPFP     LEA.L      RADA,A1      ; RADA ADDRESS IN A1
; ----- ALTER LOAD ADDRESS TO RADB -----
          LEA.L      RADB,A2      ; RADB ADDRESS IN A2
          MOVE.W     (A1),D0      ; RADA IN D0
          CMPI.W     #100,D0      ; RADA ALREADY 100 ?
          BEQ        NEXTBIT      ; IF SO LEAVE UNCHANGED
          ADDI.W     #1,(A1)      ; ADD 1 TO RADA
          MOVE.W     (A1),D0      ; RADA TO D0
          CMPI.W     #100,D0      ; IS RADA = 100 ?
          BNE        NEXTBIT      ; IF NOT, NEXT BIT
          MOVE.W     (A2),D0      ; RADB TO D0
          CMPI.W     #1,D0        ; IS RADB = 1 ?
          BEQ        NEXTBIT      ; THEN LEAVE RADA,RADB UNCHANGED
          MOVE.W     #10,(A1)    ; ELSE, RADA = 10
          MOVE.W     (A2),D0      ; RADB IN D0
          MOVE.W     #10,D1      ; 10 IN D1
          DIVU       D1,D0        ; RADB/10
          MOVE.W     D0,(A2)      ; NEW D0 VALUE IN RADB
          BRA        NEXTBIT      ; SKIP TO NEXT BIT
; MAKE NUMBER SMALLER. ADJUST VALUES TO SUIT.
; ----- ALTER LOAD ADDRESS TO RADA -----
.DOWNFP   LEA.L      RADA,A1      ; RADA ADDRESS IN A1
; ----- ALTER LOAD ADDRESS TO RADB -----
          LEA.L      RADB,A2      ; RADB ADDRESS IN A2
          MOVE.W     (A1),D0      ; RADA TO D0
          CMPI.W     #9,D0       ; RADA ALREADY 9 ?
          BEQ        NEXTBIT      ; IF SO, LEAVE UNCHANGED
          SUBI.W     #1,(A1)      ; SUBTRACT 1 FROM RADA
          MOVE.W     (A1),D0      ; RADA TO D0
          CMPI.W     #9,D0       ; IS RADA = 9 ?
          BNE        NEXTBIT      ; IF NOT, NEXT BIT
          MOVE.W     (A2),D0      ; RADB TO D0
          CMPI.W     #10000,D0    ; IS RADB = 10000 IF DIVIDING
          BEQ        NEXTBIT      ; THEN LEAVE RADA,RADB UNCHANGED
          MOVE.W     #99,(A1)    ; ELSE, RADA = 99
          MOVE.W     (A2),D0      ; RADB IN D0
          MOVE.W     #10,D1      ; 10 IN D1
          MULLU      D1,D0        ; RADB*10
          MOVE.W     D0,(A2)      ; NEW D0 VALUE INTO RADB
          BRA        NEXTBIT
; ----- DELETE LINES FOR UNWANTED .SFLAG, .INT1 AND .INT2 -----
; *****
; 'UPDOWNINT'
;
; ***** ALTER CENTRE Y WITH <UP> AND <DOWN> *****
;
; ----- DELETE LINE FOR UNWANTED .BYTE -----
.UPDOWN   LEA.L      BYTE,A1      ; BYTE ADDRESS IN A1
          CMPI.B     #208,(A1)    ; IS BYTE = 208 ?
          BEQ.S      UP          ; IF SO, THEN UP
          LEA.L      BYTE,A1      ; BYTE ADDRESS IN A1
          CMPI.B     #216,(A1)    ; IS BYTE = 216 ?
          BEQ.S      DOWN        ; IF SO THEN DOWN
; ----- DELETE LINES TO TEST FOR <ENTER> -----
; ----- ALTER BRANCH ADDRESS TO UPDOWN2 -----
          BRA        UPDOWN2      ; IF NEITHER, SKIP TO UPDOWN2
; ----- ALTER LOAD ADDRESS EYA -----
.UP       LEA.L      EYA,A1      ; INTEGER ADDRESS IN A1
          ADDI.W     #1,(A1)      ; ADD 1 TO INTEGER
          BRA        NEXTBIT      ; SKIP DOWN
; ----- ALTER LOAD ADDRESS TO EYA -----
.DOWN     LEA.L      EYA,A1      ; INTEGER ADDRESS IN A1
          SUBI.W     #1,(A1)      ; SUBTRACT 1 FROM INTEGER
          BRA        NEXTBIT
;
; ----- DELETE LINE FOR UNWANTED .INT -----
; *****
; 'UPDOWNINT'
;
; ***** ALTER CENTRE X WITH <LEFT> AND <RIGHT> *****
```



8e. 'UPDOWNINT' is used to adjust the angle parameter ROTA, and must be altered to test for <ALT><CTRL><UP> and <ALT><CTRL><DOWN>.

9. We end the program with 'CLOSE' to close the window, and 'ENDJOB' to kill the job.

Putting all that together, we get:

JOBSTART, CONSOLE, CURSOR, WRITEMODE, COPY, MAIN, ELLIPSE, UPDOWNFP, UPDOWNINT, UPDOWNINT, UPDOWNINT, CLOSE, ENDJOB.

**Listing three** shows the result of merging the required chunks of code into a file and making the appropriate alterations to make them fit together. As before, most of the comments have been removed, with lines of asterisks left between the chunks to show clearly where one ends and the next begins. Also, additional comments have been added to point out the necessary alterations. You could, of course, simply copy **Listing one**, and assemble it, but it would defeat the point of the exercise. It is much more informative to start from the chunks of code, merge them together, and then make the alterations, and note why those alterations are made. Actually, if you have kept up with this series, you have already typed out the library of chunks of code, it is almost certainly a lot less work doing it this way.

Having got the program to work, it would certainly be worth while experimenting with it, because that will undoubtedly lead to a better understanding of how it works, and, ultimately, to how to write similar routines, customised to your own needs. The first thing it would be worth trying is simply to change the key presses needed to make the various adjustments to the ellipse. You may find one more of your liking. Next, you could alter the speed of adjusting the ellipse by altering the ADDI.W and SUBI.W commands in the 'UPDOWNFP' and 'UPDOWNINT' chunks of code.

## Further Ideas

When you feel a bit more confident with the program, you could add some extras, like using 'FLOOD' to fill in the ellipse before going on to the next. To fill the ellipse you would need to rewrite the 'MAIN' routine so that when the SPACE or ENTER key was detected, instead of going straight to 'COPY' or 'CLOSE', the program would switch on the graphics 'fill', redraw the ellipse, and then switch 'fill' off again.

After all that, you could try applying the ideas to drawing arcs, and 'rubber-banding' lines, and then incorporating them all into the same program. If you then open another window to display a set of cursor commands for each type of figure to be drawn, before you know where you are, you might have written a program for producing artwork on the screen. **Happy coding!**

```

; ---- DELETE LINE FOR UNWANTED .BYTE ----
; ---- ALTER LABEL TO .UPDOWN4 ----
.UPDOWN4      LEA.L    BYTE,A1      ; BYTE ADDRESS IN A1
; ---- ALTER NEXT LINE TO TEST FOR <ALT><CTRL><UP> ----
; ---- CMPI.B    #211,(A1) ; IS BYTE = <ALT><CTRL><UP> ?
; ---- ALTER BRANCH ADDRESS TO UP4 ----
; ---- BEQ.S    UP4      ; IF SO, THEN UP
; ---- LEA.L    BYTE,A1      ; BYTE ADDRESS IN A1
; ---- ALTER NEXT LINE TO TEST FOR <ALT><CTRL><DOWN> ----
; ---- CMPI.B    #219,(A1) ; IS BYTE = <ALT><CTRL><DOWN> ?
; ---- ALTER BRANCH ADDRESS TO DOWN4 ----
; ---- BEQ.S    DOWN4     ; IF SO, THEN DOWN
; ---- DELETE LINES TO TEST FOR <ENTER> ----
; ---- BRA      NEXTBIT   ; IF NEITHER, SKIP TO NEXT BIT
; ---- ALTER LABEL TO .UP4 ----
; ---- ALTER LOAD ADDRESS TO ROTA ----
.UP4          LEA.L    ROTA,A1      ; INTEGER ADDRESS IN A1
; ---- ADDI.W    #1,(A1)   ; ADD 1 TO INTEGER
; ---- BRA      NEXTBIT   ; SKIP DOWN
; ---- ALTER LABEL TO .DOWN4 ----
; ---- ALTER LOAD ADDRESS TO ROTA ----
.DOWN4        LEA.L    ROTA,A1      ; INTEGER ADDRESS IN A1
; ---- SUBI.W    #1,(A1)   ; SUBTRACT 1 FROM INTEGER
; ---- DELETE LINE FOR UNWANTED .INT ----
; ---- ADD NEXT LINE BECAUSE IT IS A SUBROUTINE ----
.NEXTBIT      RTS
; *****
; 'CLOSE'
;
.CLOSE        MOVE.L    (A7)+,A0     ; CHANNEL ID IN A0
; ---- MOVEQ    #2,D0      ; #ID_CLOSE IN D0
; ---- TRAP     #2
;
; *****
; 'ENDJOB'
;
.END_JOB      MOVEQ     #5,D0        ; #MT_FRJOB IN D0
; ---- MOVEQ    #-1,D1     ; ID OF THIS JOB IN D1
; ---- TRAP     #1
;
; *****
; ---- DELETE LINE FOR UNWANTED .BYTE ----
; ---- ALTER LABEL TO .UPDOWN2 ----
.UPDOWN2      LEA.L    BYTE,A1      ; BYTE ADDRESS IN A1
; ---- ALTER NEXT LINE TO TEST FOR <RIGHT> ----
; ---- CMPI.B    #200,(A1) ; IS BYTE = <RIGHT>?
; ---- ALTER BRANCH ADDRESS TO UP2 ----
; ---- BEQ.S    UP2      ; IF SO, THEN UP
; ---- LEA.L    BYTE,A1      ; BYTE ADDRESS IN A1
; ---- ALTER NEXT LINE TO TEST FOR <LEFT> ----
; ---- CMPI.B    #192,(A1) ; IS BYTE = <LEFT> ?
; ---- ALTER BRANCH ADDRESS TO DOWN2 ----
; ---- BEQ.S    DOWN2     ; IF SO THEN DOWN
; ---- DELETE LINES TO TEST FOR <ENTER> ----
; ---- ALTER BRANCH ADDRESS TO UPDOWN3 ----
; ---- BRA.S    UPDOWN3   ; IF NEITHER, SKIP TO UPDOWN3
; ---- ALTER LABEL TO .UP2 ----
; ---- ALTER LOAD ADDRESS TO EXA ----
.UP2          LEA.L    EXA,A1      ; INTEGER ADDRESS IN A1
; ---- ADDI.W    #1,(A1)   ; ADD 1 TO INTEGER
; ---- BRA      NEXTBIT   ; SKIP DOWN
; ---- ALTER LABEL TO .DOWN2 ----
; ---- ALTER LOAD ADDRESS TO EXA ----
.DOWN2        LEA.L    EXA,A1      ; INTEGER ADDRESS IN A1
; ---- SUBI.W    #1,(A1)   ; SUBTRACT 1 FROM INTEGER
; ---- BRA      NEXTBIT
; ---- DELETE LINE FOR UNWANTED .INT ----
; *****
; 'UPDOWNINT'
;
; ***** ALTER ECCENTRICITY WITH <ALT><UP> & <ALT><DOWN> *****
;
; ---- DELETE LINE FOR UNWANTED .BYTE ----
; ---- ALTER LABEL TO .UPDOWN3 ----
.UPDOWN3      LEA.L    BYTE,A1      ; BYTE ADDRESS IN A1
; ---- ALTER NEXT LINE TO TEST FOR <ALT><UP> ----
; ---- CMPI.B    #209,(A1) ; IS BYTE = <ALT><UP> ?
; ---- ALTER BRANCH ADDRESS TO UP3 ----
; ---- BEQ.S    UP3      ; IF SO, THEN UP
; ---- LEA.L    BYTE,A1      ; BYTE ADDRESS IN A1
; ---- ALTER NEXT LINE TO TEST FOR <ALT><DOWN> ----
; ---- CMPI.B    #217,(A1) ; IS BYTE = <ALT><DOWN> ?
; ---- ALTER BRANCH ADDRESS TO DOWN3 ----
; ---- BEQ.S    DOWN3     ; IF SO THEN DOWN
; ---- DELETE LINES TO TEST FOR <ENTER> ----
; ---- ALTER BRANCH ADDRESS TO UPDOWN4 ----
; ---- BRA.S    UPDOWN4   ; IF NEITHER, SKIP TO UPDOWN4
; ---- ALTER LABEL TO .UP3 ----
; ---- ALTER LOAD ADDRESS TO ECCA ----
.UP3          LEA.L    ECCA,A1     ; INTEGER ADDRESS IN A1
; ---- ADDI.W    #1,(A1)   ; ADD 1 TO INTEGER
; ---- BRA      NEXTBIT   ; SKIP DOWN
; ---- ALTER LABEL TO .DOWN3 ----
; ---- ALTER LOAD ADDRESS TO ECCA ----
.DOWN3        LEA.L    ECCA,A1     ; INTEGER ADDRESS IN A1
; ---- SUBI.W    #1,(A1)   ; SUBTRACT 1 FROM INTEGER
; ---- BRA      NEXTBIT
; ---- DELETE LINE FOR UNWANTED .INT ----
; *****
; 'UPDOWNINT'
;
; ***** ALTER ANGLE WITH <ALT><CTRL><UP> & <ALT><CTRL><DOWN> *****

```



# MICRO ADS

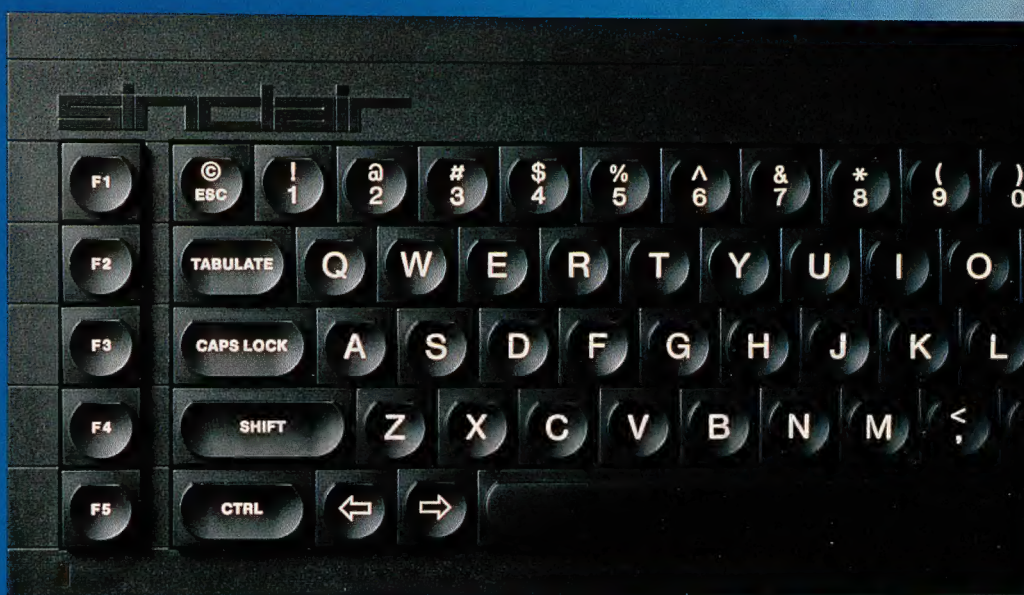
49



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PRINTMASTER, SOLITAIRE, EASYPTR, DISA, REMIND-ME PLUS, DBEASY, DBPROGS - SEE SOFTWARE LISTS ON THESE TWO PAGES.

### CATALOGUE

PLEASE ASK FOR A COPY OF OUR QL SOFTWARE CATALOGUE. WE NOW SELL SO MANY ITEMS THAT WE CANNOT PROVIDE MUCH DETAIL IN THE ADVERT, THE CATALOGUE CONTAINS MORE DETAILS OF THE PROGRAMS AND A SAMPLE SCREEN PRINTOUT FROM MOST OF THEM

WE WILL BE EXHIBITING AT QUANTA WORKSHOPS IN LONDON (30TH MAY) AND NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE (28TH JUNE) AND WOULD LOVE TO SEE YOU THERE!

### SOFTWARE DISCOUNTS

BUY 2 PROGRAMS TOGETHER  
CLAIM 5% OFF

BUY 3 OR MORE PROGRAMS  
CLAIM 10% OFF

### LABELS

MICRODRIVE LABELS roll of 100 .....£2.00  
DISK LABELS roll of 100 .....£2.00  
100 DISK LABELS on printer roll .....£2.50  
100 ADDRESS LABELS on printer roll .....£2.00  
Please add £0.50 postage per roll of labels (max postage £2.50) if only ordering labels.

### FLOPPY DISKS

3.5" DSDD UNBRANDED DISKS .....£0.45  
20 OR MORE UNBRANDED DISKS .....£0.40  
3.5" DSDD SONY BRANDED PACK OF 10 ..£9.00  
3.5" DSHD HIGH DENSITY DISKS .....£0.70  
5.25" DSDD UNBRANDED DISKS .....£0.45  
MICRODRIVE CARTRIDGES - please phone to ask about price and availability before ordering.  
POSTAGE RATES - SEE BELOW. NO NEED TO ADD POSTAGE ON MICRODRIVE CARTRIDGES

### DISK STORAGE BOXES

POSSO BOXES, drawer style, holds 150 or more 3.5" disks. Stackable disk storage system, in black, like a QL .....£17.00  
Plastic case, holds 80 3.5" disks .....£7.00  
Plastic case, holds 40 3.5" disks .....£5.00  
(both above boxes have clear, lockable lids and a small set of disk dividers)  
Small case for 10 3.5" disks .....£1.20  
POSTAGE RATES - SEE BELOW

### STANDS

MONITOR STAND, TILT/SWIVEL ACTIONS, HOLDS MONITORS WITH UP TO 14" SCREENS .....£15.50  
PRINTER STAND, 80 COLUMN PRINTERS .....£7.50  
POSTAGE RATES - SEE BELOW

### QL SOFTWARE

NB MEANING OF CODES IN SQUARE BRACKETS BELOW  
[R] RAMDISK REQUIRED  
[F] AVAILABLE ON FLOPPY DISK  
[1M/2M] AVAILABLE ON MICRODRIVE & NUMBER OF CARTRIDGES REQUIRED  
[128/512K] MINIMUM MEMORY REQUIRED  
PRICES OF SOFTWARE AVAILABLE ON MICRODRIVE HAVE NOW BEEN SIMPLIFIED. PLEASE ADD £2.00 TO THE PRICE SHOWN BELOW TO COVER THE EXTRA COST OF THE MICRODRIVE CARTRIDGE(S) AND DUPLICATION, OR ENCLOSE YOUR OWN CARTRIDGE(S) WITH THE ORDER AND PAY THE PRICE SHOWN.

### FILE TRANSFER

DISCOVER .....£20.00  
[F 256K] Copy files from QDOS to PC disks and vice versa. No cables required!  
MULTI-DISCOVER .....£30.00  
[F 256K] Enhanced version, also featuring transfer between QDOS and BBC micro DFS/ADFS, CPM and UNIX CP10 disk formats.  
TEXTIDY .....£15.00  
[F 256K] Strip out control codes from Quill text files etc and assist Discover with text file conversion to other computers.

### LEISURE

SOLITAIRE .....£15.00  
[F 2M 128K] **NEW!** A very addictive Patience card game, sometimes also known as Klondike, for one person. Las Vegas rules option! Great fun and very addictive - not a lot of work was done when this one arrived!  
CRICKET SECRETARY .....£12.00  
[F 2M 128K] Record, display and print CRICKET AVERAGES, etc - all the traditional features of batting and bowling averages, "how out" analysis, best bowling, runs per over and bowls per wicket. Useful for cricket club secretaries and fun for all cricket buffs who'd like to keep a record of how their heroes have fared!  
QUESTION MASTER .....£10.00  
[F 2M 128K] Question and multiple choice answers a program - use for revision or just for entertainment.  
QUESTION SET 1: GENERAL KNOWLEDGE .....£5.00  
QUESTION SET 2: CLASSICAL MUSIC .....£5.00  
QUESTION SET 3: QL-ESTIONS .....£5.00  
(ALL 3 SETS WORK IN 128K OR MORE MEMORY WITH QUESTION MASTER PROGRAM)

FLEET TACTICAL COMMAND II .....£49.95  
[F 512K] Naval strategy game, playable on one or two networked computers. Ask about the information booklet for this superb game.

FTC DATA PRINT UTILITY .....£9.95  
[F 512K] Add-on for FTC II described above.

THE FUGITIVE .....£9.95  
[F 512K] Text adventure game.

COCKTAILS WAITER .....£10.00  
[F 256K] Database of hundreds of recipes for alcoholic drinks. Useful for hotels and bars, or just for entertainment at home.  
View, search, select, print, etc. recipes.

MIX 2 RECIPES FOR C.W. ....£5.00  
MIX 3 RECIPES FOR C.W. ....£5.00  
(BOTH WORK IN 256K OR MORE MEMORY WITH THE COCKTAILS WAITER PROGRAM, 100'S OF RECIPES)

### PROGRAMMING

EASYPTR II .....£49.00  
[F 256K] **NEW!** Albin Hessler's development system for pointer environment programming. Assists greatly with writing menu's, etc.  
EASYPTR BUDGET VERSION .....£35.00  
DISA DISASSEMBLER .....£29.00  
[F 256K] **NEW!** Interactive machine code disassembler program, runs in pointer environment, reviewed in QL World April 1992.  
BASIC REPORTER .....£10.00  
[F 1M 128K] List variable names, keywords, procedures, etc. Useful for BASIC programmers.  
BUDGET QLBERATOR COMPILER .....£25.00  
[F 1M 128K] Version of the QLiberator SuperBASIC compiler for unexpanded QL's.  
QLBERATOR BASIC COMPILER .....£50.00  
[F 256K] A full QL SuperBASIC compiler with even more features than budget version!  
QLOAD & QREF UTILITIES .....£15.00  
[F 1M 128K] QLOAD is a fast load utility for BASIC programs. QREF is a cross referencer for listing names used in BASIC programs.

### FILE HANDLING

FILES 2 .....£12.00  
[F 1M 128K] Simple to use popup file handling utility for viewing, copying, deleting, renaming etc files.  
FILEMASTER .....£12.00  
[F 1M R 512K] For bulk copying, deleting, etc of files quickly via ramdisk, also does simple disk labelling & files list printout.  
THE GOPHER .....£12.00  
[F 1M 128K] Searches for and tells you which files contain a given text string, e.g. ask it to find letters referring to Mr Jones  
WINBACK .....£25.00  
[F 256K] Hard disk backup program for Miracle hard disk and compatibles. Version 2 now available (able to split large files onto several disks, etc.) - return version 1 master disk with £3.00 for upgrade.

### DISPLAY SOFTWARE

VISION MIXER 1 .....£10.00  
[F 2M 384K] Screen display software, use for any eye-catching display of QL mode 4 or mode 8 screens e.g. for advertising. New version 1.5 now available with built in speed control. Return master master disk with £3.00 for upgrade.  
VISION MIXER PLUS .....£22.50  
[F 384K] Enhanced version, but even easier to use. Now menu driven, with new effects and greater capabilities.  
PICTUREMASTER .....£15.00  
[F 256K] Screen maker for use with Vision Mixers, or can also be used as a simple to operate graphics program.  
PICTUREMASTER PLUS .....£20.00  
[F 384K] Enhanced version, with additional features  
UPGRADE TO PICTUREMASTER PLUS .....£5.00



# DJC

## Dilwyn Jones Computing

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Bangor, Gwynedd LL57 3YT U.K.  
Tel: Bangor (0248) 354023

### GRAPHICS

**THE PAINTER V4.04** ..... £25.00  
[F 512K] 100% machine code art and graphics program, by PROGS of Belgium. Multiple screens, can be mouse controlled, selection of fonts, patterns, many facilities.

**THE CLIPART** ..... £12.00  
[F 128K] 3 disks full of clipart pictures, for use with most DTP/graphics programs.

**QRACTAL** ..... £20.00  
[F 512K] Machine code fractals program. Displays Julia or Mandelbrot sets.

**QRACTAL SCREENS** ..... £ 5.00  
[F 128K] A disk full of sample screen pictures generated with the QRactal program. Buy this to see the sample pictures, then ask about a discount when buying QRactal itself!

**IMAGE PROCESSOR V2** ..... £15.00  
[F 256K] Image enhancement, edge detection, zoom and edit, touch up picture generated by digitisers, scanners or other graphics programs. Works with mode 4 or 8 screens.

**UPGRADE OLD IMAGE PROCESSOR** ..... £10.00  
(Send proof of purchase of old version)

**PD2 CLIPART** ..... £10.00  
[F 128K] Clipart made for PD2 Plus, but available in screen format for use with other DTP/graphics programs if required.

**SCREEN SNATCHER** ..... £10.00  
[F 1M 128K] 'Grab' screen displays from within other programs that are not able to save their own displays.

**TEXT 'N' GRAPHIX** ..... £20.00  
[F 256K] **NEW!** Allows you to insert screens, or part of QL screen pictures, into a Quill or plain text file printout. Mix NLQ text and graphics in the same printout! Currently only for use with 9 pin Epson compatible dot matrix printers - ask about a version for 24 pin printers due soon.

**TRANS24** ..... £10.00  
[F 1M 128K] Translates 9 pin graphics printouts into data for a 24 pin printer.

### TEXT

**BIBLE TEXT DISKS, EDITOR FORMAT** ..... £20.00  
**BIBLE TEXT DISKS, QUILL " \_DOC"** ..... £20.00  
[F 256K] Text of the King James Bible on Disk. Please state whether you require Editor (plain text) or Quill " \_doc" format.

**SPELLBOUND** ..... £30.00  
(F 1M 384K) A spelling checker which can check spelling as you type! 30,000 word dictionary

**SPELLBOUND SPECIAL EDITION** ..... £50.00  
(F 512K) Enganced version of Spellbound with 50,000 word dictionary & many new features.

**UPGRADE TO SPELLBOUND S.E.** ..... £30.00

**QUICK POSTERS** ..... £10.00  
(F 2M 128K) Text poster maker, for use with Star NL, XB and LC printers.

**ROB ROY BARGAIN PACK** ..... £10.00  
(F 3M 128K) Reviewed in QL WoRld August 1991

### DATA BASES

**ADDRESS BOOK & LABEL PRINTER** ..... £15.00  
[F 2M R 384K] Store names and addresses and print them out on a variety of label sizes, or print a telephone list, etc.

**DATA DESIGN** ..... £50.00  
[F 512K] Superb, fast 100% machine code database by PROGS of Belgium. Programmable via BASIC and machine code interfaces - write your own database applications in BASIC using the DATA Design commands to help you! Runs in pointer environment (supplied)

**FLASHBACK** ..... £25.00  
[F 1M 256K] Fast machine code database which is also very easy to use.

**FLASHBACK SPECIAL EDITION** ..... £40.00  
[F 2M 512K] Enhanced version of Flashback, new commands, report generator, etc  
**UPGRADE TO FLASHBACK S.E.** ..... £20.00  
(return Flashback master disk)

**QL GENEALOGIST, STANDARD VERSION** ..... £19.50  
[F 2M 384K] Family trees and family history database, one of our best selling programs.

**QL GENEALOGIST SECOND EDITION** ..... £30.00  
[F 384K] Enhanced version - for details see our advert in QL World December 1991.  
**UPGRADE TO SECOND EDITION** ..... £12.00  
(return Genealogist master disk)

**BUDGET 128K QL GENEALOGIST** ..... £12.00  
[F 1M 128K] Cut down version for unexpanded machines.

**SUPER DISK INDEXER** ..... £12.00  
[F 1M 384K] Catalogue your disk collection as a database of files. Store it, print it, search & find files, make your life easier.

**DBEASY** ..... £15.00  
[F 512K] **NEW!** A database front end for Archive, plus a suite of programs called Chaos Busters. Software from EMSOft, U.S.A.

**DBPROGS** ..... £15.00  
[F 512K] **NEW!** A collection of Archive utilities and text files to help you learn to program Archive. Software from EMSOft, U.S.A.

### DTP

**PAGE DESIGNER 2 PLUS** ..... £40.00  
[F 512K] QL Desktop Publishing program, mix text and graphics, make printed pages or posters, use clipart, use graphics from other programs etc. Prints on most printers. Ask for details! (please note: this program has been delayed, apologies to those waiting- please check if available before ordering)

**UPGRADE PD2 TO PD2 PLUS** ..... £20.00  
(Send proof of purchase of old PD2)

### QL HARDWARE

**MINI PROCESS CONTROLLER** ..... £59.95  
Relay switched outputs, controlled via QQL serial port.

**SOFTWARE TOOLKIT FOR MPC ABOVE** ..... £9.95  
[F 128K] Control the MPC from BASIC programs more easily with these extensions.

**NETWORK PROVER** ..... £ 3.50  
Plugs between network lead and computer to give a visual indication of transmission.

POSTAGE RATES - SEE BELOW

### OTHER QL SOFTWARE

**PRINTERMASTER** ..... £20.00.  
[F 1M 128K] **NEW!** Tame your printer! Popup utility with menu selection of control codes to send to a printer. Want to change fonts, set paper length, margins, set up for listings or wordprocessing etc. without having to refer to the manual and struggle with control codes. Let Printmaster take the strain out of living with your printer.

**HOME BUDGET** ..... £20.00  
[F 1M 128K] Domestic bills and accounts program, plus a UK Income Tax Calculator.

**REMIND-ME** ..... £12.00  
[F 1M 128K] Dates and events reminder program - remember about birthdays, licence renewals, etc. Quick and very easy to use.

**REMIND-ME PLUS** ..... £20.00  
(F1M 128K) **NEW!** Enhanced version with ability to schedule twice as many dates, longer event descriptions, etc.  
**UPGRADE REMIND-ME TO REMIND-ME PLUS** ..... £10.00  
Return master disk with order for upgrade

**SCREEN ECONOMISER** ..... £10.00  
[F 1M 128K] Turns off the QL display after a set number of minutes to protect the screen.

**SLOWGOLD** ..... £ 5.00  
[F 128K] Slowdown routine and control panel for software which runs too fast on Gold Card or indeed any QL system.

**TASKMASTER** ..... £25.00  
[F 1M 384K] Task switching utility. Enables you to conveniently switch between several programs in memory. Calculator, notepad and file handling utility included.

**SUPER DISK LABELLER** ..... £10.00  
[F 256K] Print neat labels for your floppy disks listing the filenames on the disk in columns in small print.

**THE CAT** ..... £ 5.00  
[F 1M 128K] List files on a disk or cartridge to the screen, or print on paper, in columns (optionally sorted in this latest version). Useful and convenient utility.

★ SEE ALSO THE OTHER HALF OF THIS ADVERT ON THE PRECEDING PAGE ★



SOFTWARE POSTAGE: Software sent post-free to UK addresses. Abroad add £1.00 per program for postage and packing.  
SUPPLIES POSTAGE: For disks, boxes and stands, add £2.50 for postage to UK addresses, or 10% of order value (minimum postage £3.50) for airmail postage where possible.

PAYMENT: We can accept payment by cash, cheque (in UK Pounds Sterling only, drawn on UK branch of bank or building society), Postal Order, International Postal/Money order, or Eurocheque. We can also accept payment by these credit cards: VISA, ACCESS, MASTERCARD, EUROCARD and also Barclays CONNECT card. Please state your card type, number, expiry date and your address (goods paid for by credit card can only be sent to cardholder's address). Remember to sign your order. Goods remain property of DJC until paid for in full. Our telephone number above has an answering machine for when we are unable to answer in person - don't be shy!

